

## Forthcoming events

29.6.2009 – 3.8.2009 Archaeology exhibition. A display by Christina Staff, our former education officer of the findings from her dig at Rodbourne Bottom

Saturday 25.7.2009 between 10am and 1pm Katie Hind of Wiltshire Museum Service will be in the museum. She is keen to identify any objects you may have, or have found in the garden or with a metal detector. **Is that ring from Woolworths or from Corinium?**

Thursday 13.8.2009 7.00pm A.G.M After the business part of the evening Philip Clayden and Linda Francis will tell us about **Making the Museum.** These two people were the backbone of the professional input to the new museum and they'll tell it as it was. No holds barred!

Sunday 30.8.2009 Petticoat Lane We shall be there peddling the museum and our wares – including unique Athelstan Museum Jigsaws

Sunday 6.9.2009 Malmesbury Museum Meander This is a must. We hope everybody will join us. We want it to be a family day. We shall meander round the river walk and we hope everyone will get sponsorship for FOAM and possibly another charity, then finish at the Cricket Club up on the Worthies for a picnic type social. Fuller details will follow but keep the date clear.

Saturday 10.10.2009 Lace Day 10.30– 4.30 with a talk by Betty Taylor. Tickets available at the museum.

Saturday 17.10.2009 Hobbes Festival

Tuesday 27.10.2009 Auction of Promises to be held at The Rose and Crown Brokenborough

**and** Mark Horton, Professor of Archaeology, well known from his TV appearances will give a talk with wine and canapés, in November .

## Athelstan Museum Contacts

Roger Griffin - Chairman 01666 822230

Miranda Ford - Treasurer 01666 824651

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# Summer 2009



# Friends of Athelstan Museum

## **Pride**

You may have seen in the papers that Athelstan Museum was entered in the Museum and Heritage Awards for Excellence competition; sadly, although we were among the finalists we didn't win. Still to get so far in a national competition is some achievement! Another marker of how well we are doing is the attendance figure. You remember before FOAM started to run the museum they were 1562. In 2007-08 they were 8326 and in the last year 2008-09 they reached 10,782. In the first two months of this year there have been 2,610 visitors including 344 children, over 900 more than the same two months last year. As part of this process we are seeking to get the museum accredited. To be so you have to show that the correct systems are in place and that you really are a grown-up museum. Lately Pippa has been working hard on this.

## **and Prejudice**

We have said goodbye to our two professionals; Christina who had led our educational outreach and attracted so many children into the museum and Pippa, who as manager/curator has transformed the running of the museum and done so much to ensure that we won't fall flat on our faces when she goes. Pippa has set up a consultancy, a brave step, and she is successfully tendering for work, including a little for us. Sadly lack of funds prevents us using her more.

Pippa and Christina were publicly and enthusiastically thanked and given gifts from money raised by the volunteers at a farewell party. We really do owe them such a tremendous amount.

## **Fun and games**

There were two events in April. A poetry reading was held at the Rose and Crown at Lea which proved very popular. The room was crowded and everyone was entertained by some first rate poetry read by the authors. Then there was the Bridge evening at the Town Hall which was voted a fun evening; all grades of players competed happily and consumed the supper contentedly. Both events were thought to be well worth repeating.

## **Culture**

The exhibition on Hankerton village was most successful. We are grateful to the Hankerton History Society for all their efforts. We pushed a leaflet through every door, well almost, in Oaksey, Crudwell, Charlton and Minety as well as Hankerton to publicise it. The Roman hoard found at Milbourne has also been on display. Hoard is perhaps too grand a term; although there were lots of coins they were nummi – the small change of the period. Yet more evidence of the Roman presence here.

We have also been running as part of what we hope will be an ongoing series of private collections a display of irons and associated equipment. Most intriguing and some of them used not all that long ago. Visitors comment "I can remember my mother/granny using one like that."

## **Money, Money, Money!**

We are still struggling with our cash flow so were very pleased when the local conservatives promised us a donation from their Funday. We had a stall there to publicise the museum - it was glorious weather which meant a good turnout and hopefully a large cheque! We are now looking to all other political parties to outdo each other in funding the museum! The Bridge evening was a financial success, also we have received some generous donations recently; including fifty percent of the retiring collection from the funeral of R Hurcombe, which we appreciate greatly. But we cannot relax; the crunch means that little money is available at the moment from trusts and charitable bodies. Monies that we do receive are coming from events and individual donors and we are really grateful for that wonderful support. But we still need more!

## **Membership**

Please may I remind you that annual donations for membership are due on August 1st either before the AGM by post or at the AGM. (forms enclosed).

*Roger Griffin*