



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2018

From the Chairman

The Friends have had a good year with many interesting talks which have been well attended, together with a coffee morning at Corf in beautiful weather and an enjoyable summer outing to Bembridge Lifeboat Station. We now look forward to our 2019-2020 season that I think will be just as enjoyable.

With the AGM due in February we do need two more members to join our committee. The committee meets four times a year and each session lasts about 1½ hours with lively discussions planning future events, reports from the museum Trustees about managing the museum and their future plans. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to talk to the museum's curator and manager about how the Friends can assist them with the purchase of items, maintenance and preservation of the collection and improving the infrastructure in the museum.

Many people on the committee are regular volunteers at the museum or help out at the Friends' monthly meetings, but this is by no means necessary. Please let me, or any committee member know that you would like to help us, so that you can be nominated at the AGM and by doing this the Friends will carry on for many more years. *John Sole*

From the Curator



The museum has recently acquired, with the generous support of the Friends, a 19th century drawing by the artist William Henry Brooke (1772-1860) was a portrait painter and illustrator who trained in London and first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1810. His works are in

a number of important museum collections including Tate and British Museum. This bold depiction of the castle entrance has the artist's inscription beneath along with notes about colour included on the drawing itself. We hope to be able to include this drawing in an exhibition of drawings, prints and watercolours currently being planned.

Over the winter period we will be installing a new exhibition drawing on some of the fascinating objects from the museum's collection which are currently in store. These displays will explore various aspects of the Island's history from medieval to modern times plus a few of our more curious objects! With over 30,000 objects in our care and limited space to display them this new exhibition will be an opportunity to share with our visitors some of the treasures of the collection. *Dr Rachel Tait*

From the Trustees

After a busy summer we are looking forward to the winter when we can update our exhibitions, tackle those decorating and maintenance issues and consider what exhibitions to plan for 2019. At the museum we have been following World War I through 2014 – 2018 and have now commemorated the 100th anniversary of the armistice. Thank you to all the volunteers, trustees and staff that helped with updating the displays and researching over the last four years.

English Heritage has undergone a significant reorganization recently and David Bailey, English Heritages Properties Manager, is now managing Osborne and Carisbrooke plus some historic properties in Hampshire and Dorset. We have had a very positive meeting with him and Amanda Pickard, the EH site manager at the Castle, who is hoping to run more events in the Castle.

The Heritage Education Service – Pupils from Nettlestone and Newchurch Primary Schools visited the museum in September to trial the WWI workshop. During September and October all pupils from these schools will have visited the museum to attend the workshops. English Heritage Education Visits Officer, Laura Bosworth has asked for details of the Discovery Sessions offered by Estelle Baker at the museum and it is hoped that we will have a more collaborative working relationship with English Heritage on Education.

Many of you may know that Chris Yendall is away from the museum at the moment and several of the Trustees, together with our Volunteers, have offered to help with the Museum Insights programme, something Chris always did. I know that you will join me in wishing Chris a very speedy return to good health and she will hopefully be back with us in the spring.

Virgil, our Museum Manager, continues to work with other heritage settings across the Island to establish the Island Collection. It is hoped that once this group is constituted it will be able to apply for grants. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been very supportive of the work happening on the Island to strengthen the Island's heritage.

Finally Mary Blake who has led on the Museum Outreach Programme over many years will be leaving the Island shortly. Mary has been the driving force behind this valuable programme and we wish her well for the move.

Gill Kennett

Outreach

The work of Carisbrooke Castle Museum is not found just here in the castle; the museum also goes out into the community as an outreach service. Volunteers take boxes of 20th

century museum objects to care homes and other groups. The objects can all be handled and have been chosen to spark memories and stimulate conversation. The participants enjoy the opportunity to tell stories from their lives and the volunteers enjoy learning from them. Care home residents appreciate seeing someone who has the time to listen to them and they have a feeling of significance when telling us about their achievements and happy memories of the past.

Now that the outreach service is well established and making an impact in a number of homes, we are inviting more people to join our team. If you or any of your friends are interested in happy conversations with older people, do phone Kate Tiley on 523112 to find out more. We are hoping to run a training course soon for new volunteers. *Mary Blake*

Memories of the Sea



We are continuing to develop our Oral History archive with the next phase of recordings, funded by Down to the Coast, a landscape partnership scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

These recordings are focusing on individuals with memories of the sea, with the aim of recording the testimony of local people whose lives have been shaped by the water which surrounds the Island and is integral to our heritage. We

have so far interviewed a fisherman in Bembridge, ship's draughtsman in Cowes and a merchant mariner in East Cowes. Please do contact me if you know anyone who might like to be interviewed and I will make contact with them. *Photo: Lifeboatmen at Bembridge*

The project is also providing opportunities for volunteer engagement through interviewing, transcribing and sound editing. Training will be provided if you'd like to volunteer. I recently ran 'An Introduction to Oral History' training session at which eight people attended to learn about the basics of interviewing and collecting oral histories. I am planning another one in the new year. If you are interested in giving some time to the project please give me a call or email - lisa.kerley@hotmail.co.uk or phone 523112. *Lisa Kerley*

Carisbrooke Life Today

Last year The Friends of Carisbrooke Church had a very successful exhibition entitled Carisbrooke in Times Past. This year they are running a photographic competition entitled Carisbrooke Life Today to encourage locals and visitors to make a record of the changes that have occurred in Carisbrooke over the years. There are 4 categories Countryside, Buildings, People and Animals. All pictures must be taken within the ecclesiastical parish of Carisbrooke, but entries are welcome from photographers living anywhere on the Island or visitors. The parish is a vast area and includes Parkhurst Forest as well as Carisbrooke, Gunville, Bowcombe and Idlecombe. You could submit pictures of your team or group, your family playing with pets in the garden, farm animals in the Bowcombe valley or butterflies in

the castle moat. The closing date is 6th January 2019 and there will be an exhibition in Carisbrooke early next year.

For more information email carisbrookelifetoday@btinternet.com or for the full set of rules please see the website www.carisbrookestmary.org.uk.

Museum Insights

La Tour de Wight: An illustrated tour of IW in traditional music (c.1800-1970).

With Christmas approaching, Justin Smith and Virgil Philpott (aka 'The Dollymopps') introduce us to some of the most interesting characters they have encountered during a decade of researching the Island's musical traditions. **Tuesday 18th December** 2-4pm.

The Isle of Wight Home Guard 1940-1944:

Back by popular demand, Steven Williams is repeating his talk on the Home Guard. Steven has studied all aspects of the Home Guard in Britain, with a particular focus on units raised on the Island. The talk will consider some of their roles and responsibilities, together with looking at their equipment and weaponry. **Tuesday 22nd January** 2-4pm.

From Regency to Rationing: Highlights of the Costume Collection at Carisbrooke Castle Museum

For those who missed this very popular talk, Curatorial Assistant Kate Tiley will give an overview of the 1500 items in the museums costume collection, including dresses, uniforms, shoes, hats, nightwear and accessories. She will help us discover some of the highlights; from Georgian silk dresses to wartime python skin shoes! There will be an opportunity to see some of the costume items up close. **Tuesday 5th February** 2-4pm.

The History of Fighting Fires on the Isle of Wight

Damon Corr, representing the revived Isle of Wight Fire Brigades Federation, will present a packed 'fly-through', from a particular occurrence in Roman times, up to 1948, when the first Isle of Wight Fire Brigade was formed. An illustrated talk with an eclectic mix of heroism, humour and huffiness! **Tuesday 26th February** 2-4pm.

Quay Crafts: Creative Collections

QuayCraft artist-makers, who work in a wide range of media (including textiles, ceramics, print, glass and photograph), have contributed to an exciting new museum exhibition. Historic objects from our collections are displayed alongside pieces of art and craft, which creatively respond to them. As well as viewing the exhibition, we will have the opportunity to hear from some of the artists who will talk about their work. **Tuesday 12th March** 2-4pm.

All Tickets are £8 including tea, coffee and biscuits. For further details and to book your places please ring 523112 or e-mail info@carisbrookecastlemuseum.org.uk. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL as places are limited.

REMINDER: THE FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY IS ON DECEMBER 12TH STARTING AT 7.30PM

Entertainment by the Lively Ladies and please bring a £3 donation to cover food and drink. If you wish to bring a Guest Non-Member, their fee will be £6.