



REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

Friends of the Museum Newsletter

Winter 2017
Issue 115

Friends Subscriptions 2017/2018

Unfortunately last year we had quite a few of our long standing loyal members who did not renew their 'Friends' subscriptions. I am wondering if this may be because the renewal form got 'lost' in the electronic versions of your newsletter? It's easy to overlook these things especially if you don't print out your copy of the newsletter - and you shouldn't as we are trying to save paper aren't we? This year I propose to send out a separate email just containing the renewal form. For those who are paying extra to receive a paper copy of the newsletter I will insert a separate sheet in your next newsletter.

Subscriptions are due on April 1st and the good news is that your trustees have voted to keep the annual subscription rates the same as last year for Business Friends as well.

If you know of anyone whose membership has lapsed please ask them to contact the editor for a renewal form, which I will be delighted to send to them.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATE:

Our Museum 'Friends' and good neighbours, Colin & Debbie at The Cricketers have very generously agreed to donate the proceeds of their May PUB QUIZ to your museum. Please put Sunday 28th May in your diaries and think about raising a team to support us and The Cricketers.

Further details in the next newsletter.

Email: RedbournMuseum@gmail.com Website: www.RedbournVillage.org.uk

Redbourn's always been ahead of the times!

Take a look at the advertisement for "Country Chicken" - mobile phone text talk in Redbourn Common Round August 1971 (Issue 149 Minimum Price 2p).

Telephone: Redbourn 2823

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REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

Silk Mill House, The Common, Redbourn, Herts. AL3 7NB

Thursday 2nd March at 7 pm

**St. Mary's Church Transept,
Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn**

Museum AGM

**Following the business meeting we will be serving
wine and nibbles and then we warmly invite you to a
short presentation by Catherine Newley**

**St. Albans Town Hall &
Museum Project**

Film Screening - Two Gentlemen of Verona

Saturday December 3rd

This was a very successful afternoon where we welcomed 49 patrons to the parish centre 'cinema'. There were 24 museum friends and pleasingly we had 15 non-members come to join us.

If you were unable to get to the screening and would like to see the film, we are offering the DVD for sale at half price in aid of museum funds at £9

Please contact John, the editor if you are interested in purchasing it.
If it has not been sold, it will be available at the AGM on Saturday 2nd March.

Appeal For Museum Stewards

Thank you for your response to our appeal in the newsletter and Common Round for more museum stewards. As a result of the campaign we have 10 new stewards much to the relief of "Mr Rota" Alan Lindfield.

Your museum re-opens on Saturday February 4th.

We have organised two working parties of trustees to help clear out some of the unwanted items from the Skillman Gallery and will try and get this important room re-opened as soon as we possibly can.

The upstairs office and the downstairs Occupations Room are still drying out following the actions to help alleviate the on-going damp problem. The Parish Council have informed us that the damp will be reassessed by their building contractors when the weather improves.

Museum Gardening

It's that time of year again!

Our gardening team will be resuming their efforts in March and would welcome some new members.

If you can help please contact Barry Welch: barrywelch@ntlworld.com
or 01582 626443

Redbourn Parish Magazine Special Issue

I have been very lucky and have come across a copy of the Parish Magazine from August 1948 which was a Special Issue as it was No. 500.

Here's a very interesting page from the magazine - with more to follow...

1907 — 1948

REDBOURN PARISH MAGAZINE

As the Vicar has mentioned in his letter the magazine was started by the Rev. G. A. Lewis Browne and unless there was an error in the numbering of the issues between No. 1 and No. 180 (the latter being the oldest copy which has come to light) the first issue appeared in January 1907. From the considerable collection of other Parish Magazines that I have it seems that most of them were started about the beginning of the century. From 1907 right up until 1944 Mrs. Miller acted as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Magazine.

Until January 1944 the Magazine appeared in quarto size and contained only two pages of reading matter (apart from the inset); it now contains ten octavo pages of news, etc. The Magazine was first published at 1d., but in January 1934 it was increased to 2d. and in February 1944 it was found necessary to raise the price again. Even now it is only our advertisers that make it possible for us to produce it for 3d. per copy.

Our circulation in 1939 was 125; it is now 375—a fine achievement and we are indeed grateful to all distributors past and present who have worked so hard to increase the sales.

As editor since January 1947 I would like to say how very grateful I am to the various contributors who month by month help so much to make the Magazine interesting, and especially to express my gratitude to our Printers, Messrs. H. A. Richardson Ltd., for all their kindness and co-operation, and indeed for their great help when the 'copy' arrives late in the month, as it frequently does!

B. Draper, *Ed.*

No. 500

What can they know of Redbourn
Who ride the Watling Way?
"Another horrid bottleneck,
Another vile delay!
Another 'thirty' limit sign,
Our motoring to blight!"
Thus do they brood on Redbourn,
Till Markyate comes in sight.

Deep in remotest Redbourn,
There stands a parish church.
I've often tried to find it there,
But given up the search;
And yet I know it does exist,
Since I have often seen
That vital monthly document,
The Parish Magazine.

I like to read of Redbourn,
Its worship, witness, whist,
Gaily transfigured by the glow
Of Parish Eucharist.
So may this friendly Magazine
Prosper as heretofore;
May it be read wherever borne!
What could I wish it more?

S. J. Forrest, *Vicar of Leighton Buzzard.*

Redbourn House Portico Update

I'm afraid there's nothing to report really other than, discussions continue...

I have discovered a very nice photo from 1943 showing the portico.



Redbourn Through The Centuries

For many years we have been privileged to hear lectures by Roy Craske about the centuries we have been covering since the inception of Redbourn Through The Centuries, a project which was the brainchild of Isobel Cranmer.

Unfortunately Roy is unable to continue with his lectures but we are delighted that we have been able to find someone to continue the lecture series.

Kate Morris is a local historian, author and former Mayor of St. Albans who has generously agreed to tell us all about the 18th Century with as much reference to Redbourn as possible! Date: 29th April at 3:00 pm in the Parish Centre. More details in the next newsletter, but please put this important date in your diaries now as it will be an event not to be missed.

Treasure!

Our curator Maria, is keen for us to acquire a medal which was found by someone who was metal detecting in a field on the far side of the by-pass.

It is a double-sided silver medal. One side of the medal is decorated by the left-facing, draped bust of King Charles I, moulded in relief. On the opposite side is a sketchy form of the Royal arms. A chain loop is located at the apex, with a single chain link still attached, with a second, smaller loop at the base. Two decorative lobes project from halfway down the right and left sides respectively.

Similar medals have been reported under the Treasure Act. One is in the Victoria and Albert Museum, dated to between c. 1640 and c. 1670. These medals were worn as tokens of allegiance to Charles I.

The medal may be worth as much as £1000 and we may have to apply for a grant to obtain this rare object:



You may remember this article appearing in the newsletter this time last year?

We have now been told by The British Museum that it is ours!

Amazingly we 'got it' for the princely sum of £253.32.

We will let you know when it has been collected and is on display at the museum.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from the following:

Redbourn Parish Council



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Hertfordshire County Show



Little Revel End Kennels



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**Redbourn Village Museum
Silk Mill House
The Common
Redbourn
Herts. AL3 7NB**

Patron: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon

**Museum open February to November
Saturday & Sunday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Last admission 4:30pm

Tel: 01582 793397

Email: redbournmuseum@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:

www.redbournvillage.org.uk

(Website under construction at present)

Museum Trustees:

Peter Fox:	Chairman
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Pauline Allcroft:	Secretary
Maria Maynard:	Curator
Diane Whiskin:	Assistant Curator
Sandra Langstone:	Treasurer
Ian Caldwell:	Parish Council Liaison
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Geoff Webb:	Local & Family Historian
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John Ridgwell:	Membership Secretary
	Newsletter Editor

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