

Welcome to Wells & Mendip Museum's newsletter with information about exhibitions, talks, events and developments at the Museum. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail please contact admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk

Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm (Closed Sundays & Mondays)

First Floor Exhibition Room

24 September – 12 October



“Mists and Shadows” – An exhibition of contemporary photography by Jack Hardin BA (Hons)

Photographer and longtime resident of Wells and the surrounding area. Inspired by the almost unrivalled image-making opportunities of the British Isles, particularly of the South West. Specialties: landscape & related, light & mood, portraiture... and whatever catches the critical eye

Free entry to exhibition only

16 – 26 October – Art exhibition by the Wells Art Group

Wells Painting Group was founded in 1969 by popular local artist Pauline Phillips. After meeting in the Blue School for many years, the group moved to St Thomas' Church Hall where it meets regularly. Group members paint a wide and varied range of subjects in all mediums.

The paintings are for sale and there will also be cards available to purchase.

Free entry to exhibition only



30th October- 16th November – Exhibition by the Somerset Printmakers



Somerset Printmakers was formed in 1998 by seventeen professional artists who live and work in Somerset. We each have our own studio and our aims are to promote our work together, to reach a wider audience and to show the best of printmaking from Somerset.

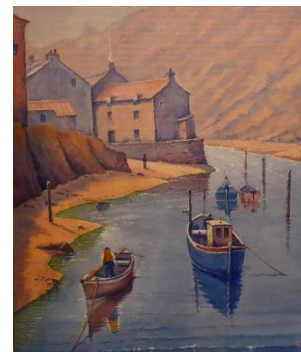
This selling exhibition features a variety of approaches and subject matter, come and learn more about the different processes involved in creating an original contemporary hand made print, and meet the artists on Saturday the 2nd November 11-2 pm.

Free entry to the exhibition only

19 – 30 November – Art exhibition by the Old Bakery Artists

The OBA are a group of artists residing in the Somerset creative triangle between Bath, Wells and Frome. They regularly get together to exhibit and sell a wide range of artworks including paintings, ceramics and textiles.

Free entry to exhibition only



3 – 14 December – Art exhibition by Michael Brobson



Michael's back at the Museum for the last time. He will have for sale a number of his paintings, drawings and greeting cards. Now rather hard of hearing this is the last art exhibition that he will take part in. Paintings will be available at very reasonable prices, providing a different Christmas present to give this Christmas or maybe just hang on your own wall. **Free entry to exhibition only.**

Until 14 December - "Time & Place: Collect, Care, Value"

"During July and August we welcomed artist Sara Dudman back to the museum to deliver a six week practical art course: *Time & Place: Collect, Care, Value*.

Five participants took part, and - supported by our Hon Curator David Walker, learnt more about the museum's collections, focusing on some of the approaches towards conservation, restoration and preservation of objects in our care. Sara worked with the group to creatively interpret these ideas, using a variety of techniques, materials and processes.

We are delighted that the groups creative responses will be on display within the museum until we close for the Christmas break - do come and take a look!"



Library News



We must begin with the sad news of the death of Ruth Pascoe, who has been a key member of the Tuesday Library Team. She has left her mark checking the lists of all the numerous Somerset and Wells boxes before illness intervened. And even after all the boxes had been checked, by she came in on a Tuesday when she felt well enough. We commend her bravery and shall treasure her memory.

We have two new Library Assistants: Mary Shurmer, who has previous Library experience that has already proved valuable, and Nicolas Brown, who uses the Library for study of his own on Tuesdays and now acts as Library Assistant on Friday mornings.

It is well known that the Library holds newspapers in the attic namely *Newspapers Local and Provincial*: Bristol papers in 1932 and from 1936, 1937,

1938 to 1939 on the death of George V. From then on, the Local newspaper was the *Western Daily Press* in the 1950s and the 1970s - followed by the *Wells Journal* from 2001 to 2015. All the titles listed on *Newspapers Local and Provincial* carry the * which indicates that the papers are held in the Attic. The same * is shown on *Royalty* which is kept in the Attic and runs from 1897 to 2015.

We hope to include the latest Coronation in order to bring things up to date. but what we want to make clear now is that the Library itself carries categories of newspapers at hand. The most significant is the Second World War which runs from 1938 to the end of the War when on the front page has written across it: '*HIROSHIMA*' - the end of the war with Japan. Other less dramatic headlines are 'The Death of Churchill', 'Miscellaneous News', 'General News and Commemorative Issues', so there are newspapers to be seen in the Library itself. A list in the thick Blue ring-folder kept flat on the Library desk will indicate (immediately before the the long list of maps) details of Newspapers held in the Attic. **Stuart Andrews, Hon Librarian**

Stoberry Park School's Young Historians Uncover the Mystery of Cheddar Man!

This term, students from Stoberry Park School embarked on an exciting historical journey as they delved into the timeline of the Stone Age and its place in known chronology.

As budding historians, they explored the local heritage of the Mendip region with a special focus on the fascinating figure of Cheddar Man. Their studies culminated in a key question: *Cheddar Man – Fake or Real?*

Through enquiry-based learning, the children analysed evidence, developed critical thinking, and formed their own conclusions about the existence of Cheddar Man. This included a memorable visit to the iconic Cheddar Caves, where students stepped into the shoes of our cave-dwelling ancestors. They experienced firsthand what life may have been like in prehistoric times and came face-to-face with Cheddar Man himself!

Their hard work is being showcased at the museum, where the children will present their findings, proving or disproving the existence of Cheddar Man based on the evidence they have gathered. This immersive experience will equip the children with key historical skills as they learn to enquire, interpret, and communicate their insights into the past.

Don't miss this exciting exhibition!

FINDS IDENTIFICATION DAY

Saturday 2 November 11am – 3pm

Laura Beckwith, the Finds Liaison Officer for Somerset County Council, will be available to identify your finds from digging your garden or while walking your dog.

To book a place, please email Laura laura.beckwith@swheritage.org.uk

GARDEN NEWS

Although the volunteers have begun to put the garden to bed for winter there is still plenty of autumn colour to be seen. Many plants have flowered late this year due the poor spring and summer weather. A priority this coming winter will be to improve the soil using a mulch of leaf mould and / or spent mushroom compost.



The bug hotel has been moved to its final location against the wall behind a seating area on the upper terrace. The various compartments have been partially filled with materials chosen to attract pollinators – more are required. Any canes, broken slates, tiles and other suitable items will be gratefully received.



Meanwhile, other wildlife has made its home in the garden. Recently a family of dormice was seen on one of the lower terraces and the larva of a large moth was found on the bug hotel whilst under construction.



Eco Week – 11- 20 October



Wells is set to launch its first Eco Week+, a ten-day event dedicated to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness across the community. As part of the event, the museum is offering free entry to its beautiful medieval walled garden.

OTHER EVENTS IN THE MUSEUM

Friday 25th October at 6.30pm – “Rachel Tudway of Parham, Antigua” – a talk by local historian, Stephanie Mathivet. Rachel Tudway owned a sugar plantation worked by enslaved people in the 18th century.
Admission £2 on the door

Tuesday 29th October at 7.30pm – “Secret World: Back to the Wild” A talk by Charlotte Wroe. Secret World give their orphaned casualties a soft release back to the wild, this includes a temporary enclosure, support feeding and lots of monitoring, allowing them to adjust to life on their own. This talk includes this process, through getting each species ready for release back in the wild, some stories and cute videos of animals that have recently been helped. **Admission £5 on the door. Wells & District Wildlife Group**

Friday 1st November at 7pm “The Mendips Geological Journey” – a talk by Stephen Thompson. Stephen is a member of Wells U3A Geology group, with a life-long interest in Geology. The talk covers the sequence of formation of the Mendip hills, since its beginning 400 years ago.
Non members £4 on the door. Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Saturday 2nd November at 7.30pm – Members of WMA will prepare table-top displays and short 10-minute talks to describe their latest passions in amateur astronomy and space exploration. Visitors most welcome!
Adult £5, Family rate £7.50, Students £3. **Wells & Mendip Astronomers**

Tuesday 26th November at 7.30pm – “Heal Rewilding” – a talk by Jan Stannard, co-founder and acting CEO of Heal Somerset.

What is rewilding? Jan launched the rewilding charity Heal in March 2020 to raise money to buy land in England for nature recovery, climate change action and wellbeing. The charity's goal is to create a new site in every English county and Heal acquired its first site, Heal Somerset near Bruton, in December 2022, which is open to the public with free access all year round. Rewilding is essentially about nature-led recovery on the land. Heal follows Rewilding Britain's definition of rewilding, which is *'the reinstatement of natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species, allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within, leading to the restoration of fully functioning ecosystems'*. Heal believes that rewilding is essential in supporting nature recovery in the UK, with England being one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Rewilding heals the land from the ground up and Heal is creating safe spaces where wildlife can thrive and vulnerable species can recover. Rewilding promotes healthy ecosystems, which are essential in the fight against climate change and in mitigating its impact and, through time spent immersed in nature, are good for us as individuals and communities. Jan will talk about the rewilding principles that Heal follows and attendees will get an insight into some of the plans for the land at Heal Somerset, including 'kept-wild' livestock introductions. She will also talk about some of the exciting changes seen on the site already, including the very welcome appearance of wild-living beavers.

Admission £5 on the door. Wells and District Wildlife Group

Friday 6th December at 7pm – “Wells Inns, Ales & Cider since 1360” – a talk by Dr. Richard Stone. Dr Stone will fascinate you with a Talk and taste on Medieval Ale and Cider, followed by Dr Mark Hutchinson teasing you with a short quiz on old Wells Inns.

Non-members: £4 on the door. Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Saturday 14th December 11am – 3pm – Christmas Craft Market.

Handmade gifts, decorations and treats from local artisans. Raffle & Tombola, Festive decoration making workshop. Book signing by local crime writer. Refreshments available. **Free entry to the museum for the day!**



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