



Aldeburgh Museum MOOT HALL

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WELCOME

A big welcome to everyone reading this - our first - Aldeburgh Museum "e-newsletter". We are very much hoping to produce an issue every week throughout this tricky period in the hope that the content will engage and entertain our museum community. Readers can gain interesting and valuable knowledge around Aldeburgh and its heritage using it to inspire others once we are up and running again.

Please forward this newsletter on to anyone who may enjoy it - both locally and further afield. We have already had one request from an elderly relative in Oxford. If anyone would like to contribute to this newsletter, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you!



Notes from the Chairman

What a disappointment. Who could have possibly predicted a pandemic like this and the Museum unable to open for a prolonged period? You may be wondering how this has affected our business plans and what we have said to the National Lottery. Obviously our income will be down in 2020. Since opening, our visitor numbers have been good but our costs have gone up considerably with the refurbishment. We now have the monthly costs of the tills and the improved broadband, extra insurance, maintenance costs and of course paid staff on duty when we are open. But the Trustees believe we have things under control and the Lottery are being very supportive. We will take advantage of the various government schemes on offer to

small businesses and these should make up most of our predicted revenue shortfall this year provided we open to visitors for at least some of the summer peak. We are also planning to introduce a Friends Scheme in the coming months. This will help us with our increased cost base and also enable us to continue our programme of events activities and outreach. This is being by Fiona Lewington but the funding for this by the Lottery ceases in the summer of 2021. More details of this in a subsequent newsletter. The Friends scheme is being put together by Julia Ransome, our new trustee, who was one of the fundraisers at Aldeburgh Music.



Weekly jottings

Aldeburgh Steps by Stephen Mael

Aldeburgh is a town well known for its steps, some better known than others. The Moot Hall was built c. 1550 with outside steps thought to be steeper than ones we see today. Many have gathered on the Moot Hall steps including, famously, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who was photographed on the steps on 2 June 1967 on a visit to open the new concert hall at Snape Maltings. The steps also feature in the book 'Up the Steps: A Tale of Old Aldeburgh' written by Dr Nora Acheson, a smuggling story for children. Lucy, the book's heroine, climbs the steps thinking about the hundreds of people who had climbed them before her and finds at the top a packed court room similar to the one Peter Grimes, another fictional character, had found over 150 years earlier.

Further into the town, the steep hill that separates the lower and upper levels of the town has three different sets of steps. The best known is the Town Steps with the town pump made by Richard Garrett and Sons of Leiston

in 1840. The book 'A Seaside Holiday' featuring Orlando, the Marmalade Cat has a charming illustration of the Town Steps as the Orlando's family arrive for their holiday. Another set of steps, known as the 'Little Steps' wind their way up to The Terrace from West lane off the High Street. The least known of the three hill steps is almost hidden away at the North end of Wentworth Road, where it meanders up to the churchyard and in the Autumn, is covered in a carpet of crab apples.



Aldeburgh Folk

Dorothy Clarke and Bessie Hepburn

The First George Medal

- from the museum archives

On a hot Summer's day in Aldeburgh on July 1940, two young Royal Engineers made their way onto a minefield on the beach for a swim, despite Danger signs. They trod on a mine and there was an explosion. A short while later, an ambulance arrived staffed by Dorothy Clarke and Bessie Hepburn, both Aldeburgh residents. They bravely made their way through the minefield and recovered the two men; one was dead and the other badly injured.

In recognition of their 'devotion to duty and courage of a high order' both women were awarded the George Medal. They were part of the first group of ten to receive the award and Dorothy Clarke's was the first George Medal to be awarded.



Curator's Challenge

Can you answer her questions?



Any idea what these are these men doing?



Where would you find this face in the museum?

Things to keep you busy

Try our cryptic quiz. Work out the name of the place in Suffolk from the clue. It may be a town or a village or smaller. The first clue is Department Store and the answer Debenham.

The prize for the most number of correct answers is a bottle of Prosecco donated by our Chairman. In the event of a tie the first answer to arrive will win. The editors decision is final.

Submit your answers by April 30th to

learningofficer@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk

Something to Entertain you.

200 hours of film for free from the East Anglian film archives.

www.eafa.org.uk

including Last Train from Aldeburgh 1961 and a Anglia Television report from the 1960's featuring the Aldeburgh Festival at the Jubilee Hall.

SUFFOLK PLACE NAMES CRYPTIC QUIZ

1. Department Store? ANSWER DEBENHAM
2. Internet Router?
3. Does a flowerpot man live here?
4. Not many dwellings here
5. River crossing
6. Snakes home
7. Lovejoy's friend
8. Ride your nags here
9. Put your fleece in here
10. Start of the West Coast Main Line?
11. Opposite Easton?
12. A good place for dogs to cross the river?
13. Make your beer here?
14. Does Big Ears live nearby?
15. Potions master
16. Baby?
17. Reynard's home
18. Expensive car
19. Policeman in court
20. Horse country?
21. Not an ancient town
22. Cambridge College
23. We wouldn't see much without one of these
24. The end of a famous hawk?
25. Plenty of bunnies here
26. No Dutch disease here.
27. ? field
28. No girls allowed
29. I bet you can get your gammon here
30. An Ancient and Modern place to live
31. A saint's remains must be here somewhere.
32. Fold up bike
33. 1st British PM
34. Boris Johnson and his pals should like it here.
35. Fish and meat?
36. Do you know John Peel?
37. Will I find rowers here?
38. Home for sheep?
39. Sounds like General Eisenhower to me.
40. Boats in a field?