



Aldeburgh Museum

MOOT HALL

MOOT MATTERS

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH OUR MUSEUM

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WELCOME

A warm welcome to this our third E-Newsletter. I hope you are all keeping safe but active.

No one could have predicted a 2020 like this and at the Museum we have been busy working out how we can still meet the objectives set by the National Lottery at the start of our redevelopment project. By rethinking our budget we now hope to be able to keep Fiona, our Learning and Activities officer, with us for two full seasons ie to the end of 2022 to enable us to fulfil all the objectives set in our Activity Plan.

We are planning to recruit more volunteers to help us run the Museum, not just with front of house. We are looking for people to help with marketing, updating the website, social media, administration, and helping the Curator with cataloguing and displays. So if you would like to help or know of anyone who might please do get in touch.

enquiries@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk

Tony Bone
Chairman



Notes from the Curator

In April 2018 Tony received an email from Geoffrey Munn, the Antiques Roadshow jewellery expert, asking us if we would like to accept a gold and carnelian cross for the museum, from a friend of his, Lady Penn.

Lady Penn had been Lady-in waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and used to live in Sternfield, where Princess Margaret would often stay. They would go to the beach together, to collect stones, among these were carnelians, which they would then polish in a rock and stone tumbler.

"This was a three-week operation consisting of a revolving drum plugged in to a power point. For the first week, the stones were inserted with a rough grit. After seven days, the stones were removed and washed. They were then put back with a less rough grit for a second week. For the third and

final week, they were tumbled with a paste. When they were finally removed and washed the stones had been transformed from dull colourless objects in to shining brightly coloured 'jewels'. Strangely enough, the maker of the tumbler was a Mr. Beech". Lady Penn



Sometime later Lesley Durbin, a renowned silver-smith, was asked to make a gold cross with the carnelians. To see an example of Mr Durbin's silver work - click the link [HERE](#)

The Trustees accepted this generous offer, and the cross was sent by Simon Giannini of Wartski, London, to the museum, where it was accessioned and is now part of the permanent collection.

Catherine



On the river.

Weekly jottings

The Arrival in Aldeburgh of the Belgian Refugees at the start of WW1.

(taken from William and Freda Rowland Fisher's diary 'History of the Belgian Children's Home in Aldeburgh, Suffolk 1914 - 1918).

Twenty five Belgian refugees - girls aged between 6 - 14 years old - arrived in Aldeburgh on October 13th 1914 to start a new life at the children's home created by William and Freda Rowland Fisher and members of the Aldeburgh community at 1 & 2 Brudenell Mansions. Here is an account of their arrival in Aldeburgh from Folkestone.

'The arrival at Aldeburgh caused the greatest excitement and a crowd of certainly over one hundred people and the one policeman were at the station to meet us. It will be borne in mind that in a small town like Aldeburgh it does not need much to create excitement and the preparation of the Home had created a very considerable interest in our scheme. Everyone had heard so much about the thousands of Belgian refugees arriving in this country but no one had yet seen one and moreover the children had been expected for so long and many people were getting so sceptical about them that when the telegram arrived to say that they were actually on their

way the news soon spread with the above result. Many others were also waiting outside the Home to see the children arrive. It may seem a little humorous that so many should have turned out to meet a party of quite ordinary looking little girls but such curiosity is not peculiar to Aldeburgh and in the circumstances quite understood.

The only three omnibuses were soon commandeered and filled and our novel journey was at an end. On arrival at the Home in addition to the crowd outside, a considerable crowd of voluntary workers were crowded inside and everyone seemed anxious to make our little Belgians welcome'

Here are some refugee photos from the archives.



Off for a picnic.



At home.

Aldeburgh Folk

The Mann Family

In our last newsletter, 'Curator's Corner' featured an image of a particular Aldeburgh lifeboatman, asking our readers who he might be. To answer this question for you, the image is of Charlie Mann (b 1871), coxswain of the lifeboat from 1917 to 1929. He was the brother of Augustus Mann (b 1868), the owner of the pocket watch exhibited in the museum. Their father, William Mann (b 1840), was awarded a Silver Medal with James Cable in 1891 for their heroism in rescuing the crew of a Norwegian barque, Winnifred of Laurvig.

Stephen Mael tells us more about the watch.

'The watch was carried by Augustus Mann ("Gussie") on board the lifeboat 'Aldeburgh' when she capsized in a raging storm on the night of Thursday 7 December 1899, killing seven of the crew. The watch stopped at the time of the disaster at 11.31am and Gussie never had it mended because of this. His daughter, Mrs Sadler, gave it to the RNLi who in turn gave it to the Museum.'



Charlie Mann

Famous Aldeburgh Folk

Can you do the following anagrams?

Just to make it more difficult we've added some current local politicians and councillors.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sauna Mug Stun | 6. Mesh Tooling |
| 2. Fax Oars | 7. Beggar Cob Ere |
| 3. Paper Trees | 8. Batman Jib Intern |
| 4. Tenants Regrow | 9. Cob Old Jenny |
| 5. Rag Insurers | 10. Cheery Toffees |

Things to keep you busy

Try our new quiz set by Sue Warren.

Solve the clues right. Then, as a little extra, tell us anagrams on the previous page.

There will be a small prize for the winner. In the event of a tie the first answer to arrive will win. The editor's decision is final.

Submit your answers by May 17th to learningofficer@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk

LOCKDOWN QUIZ

All answers contain an L for Lockdown.

1. ONE WHEEL, TWO HANDLES (OURS SQUEAKS).
2. QUEEN IN AUSTRALIA.
3. ENGLISH CASTLE AND CARD-PLAYING TERM.
4. FATHER AND DAUGHTER BOTH STARRED IN THIS AWARD-WINNING FILM.
5. DAUBED IT ON WHILE TIDDLY! CRYPTIC (9).
6. WORDS THAT CHAUCER AND SHAKESPEARE HAD IN COMMON.
7. WELL-KNOWN GARDEN WEED, NAME DERIVED FROM LATIN AND FRENCH.
8. AN EARLY 17TH CENTURY PLAY WITH SIX 'L's IN THE TITLE.
9. INFORMAL NAME FOR LARGE, HEAVY SHOES.
10. BRITISH OAPs - DRUMMER AND TENNIS PLAYER, SHARING THE SAME NAME.
11. MEDIEVAL LEADER WHO SPOKE ENGLISH, WELSH AND POSSIBLY FRENCH.
12. THE ONLY SUMMER HAT LEFT - FOR GOODNESS SAKE! CRYPTIC (4-5)

Something to Entertain you.

Our tablet tour is now finished but not yet tried out in the Moot Hall. The current lockdown has led us to considering how this could be enhanced to take a virtual museum experience to people's homes. Hve a look at some of the content we have for the tablet - the overview of the first and ground floors of the Moot Hall and tell us what you think.

You can watch them here.

[Gound Floor](#)

[First Floor](#)

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The Museum will get a charitable donation from Amazon of 0.5% of your purchase cost.