



Aldeburgh Museum
MOOT HALL

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WELCOME

Welcome to this our tenth E-Newsletter. One of the dubious benefits of lockdown is that we have time to put one together!

Please note the museum phone number is now 01728 567767 (previously 454666).

To amuse you we have developed a few online jigsaws with an Aldeburgh Museum theme. They are great fun so do have a go. You can access here www.tinyurl.com/amjigsaw



MUSEUM NEWS

When will we be opening again I am often being asked. So I say that I don't know, and not even Boris knows or Chris Whitty (who I rather like). But of course we are trying to plan and we very much hope to be open before Easter. With the vaccine roll-out programme seeming to go well, that really does now seem possible. We plan to open with one volunteer and the two supervisors, Alan and Stephen both on duty and have secured funding for this until the end of June. We are hoping that many of our volunteers will feel able to take part again once they have been vaccinated. Of course Covid secure arrangements will still be in place. With both Stephen and Alan on duty this also means that there will be plenty of time for on the job training.

So what have we got planned for the year ahead? Quite a lot. Firstly we are producing a virtual 3D tour of the Museum to showcase the Moot Hall online. There will be both an internal tour of the building and a tour of the outside. So people will be able to move around from the

comfort of their armchairs and see what we have to offer. Oh you might say: "if people can look round from home why would they visit?" Well experience shows from other museums that actually it make them want to visit even more. We expect this tour to go live in May but we will hopefully be able to give you, our volunteers, a look in advance.

Secondly we are redeveloping our changing coastline display as the current one did not work out as we hoped and is suffering from wear and tear. The new one will be electronic and to save money we are developing it in house. We are being assisted in the content by Prof Mark Bailey from UEA.

Fiona is preparing a number of events and activities from storytelling to walks around the town and and educational offering for schools, but I will leave her to tell you about those.

I am looking forward to the season to come with Covid in retreat. I am sure you are too.

My best Tony Bone Chairman



Barbers Point Saxon Village
(32 pieces)

Looking back in lockdown - by Julie Cook (nee Manders)



My family arrived in Aldeburgh in March 1956 with me being the eldest daughter of Frank and Mary. Our first home was a small cottage leading down to Fort Green then moving to End Cottage in the High Street a few months later. My father had first come to Aldeburgh to work on the sea defences after the horrific floods of January 1953 and had decided that this was where he wanted to raise his family after being brought up in the East End of London. It must have seemed worlds away from post-war London. I have hazy memories of sitting outside the small cottage watching the Carnival go past and strangely the steam-powered road roller going by with the smell of tar. I think it's the clanking and hissing which stuck in my mind. Amazing and frightening at the same time.

I joined Aldeburgh Primary School in the September of 1960 with my sister coming along two years later. School records show there were 141 children then, with 6 classes. My first teacher was a lovely lady called Miss Thompson and my Headteacher was Jack Grimwood who many will remember with fondness. There was a full-time caretaker, Mr Vincent, who "lived" somewhere around the back of the school. None of us was sure where! No central heating for us. There were coal stoves in each room with a suitable guard rail around. Wintertime meant steaming gloves, socks, scarves being a permanent addition to the rail as they dried off after we played outside in all weathers. The winters always seemed to be cold but the summers were perfect and sunny. Les-

sons were often outside with walks to the beach or across the marshes to the "ditches" where we could collect tadpoles for the classrooms in glass jars. Needlework and Cookery were also on the timetable and I can remember knitting in class whilst other lessons were being taught. No National Curriculum in those days but we worked hard and behaved. No mobile phones to distract us. One of the highlights I can remember is going to the Isle of Wight for a week in the summer of 1966 leaving by train from Aldeburgh station with my class and teachers.

The school was a very traditional one with generations of families attending. In those days some of the children lived in the High Street and went home to lunch either with parents or grandparents. The rest of us had school dinners - no pack ups then. I loved my school dinners and still make chocolate crunch with chocolate sauce.



Looking back in lockdown by Julie Cook - continued

Sports Day was usually a Wednesday afternoon with dad's taking the afternoon off to come along with the Mayor presenting the House Shield to the winners. The oldest shield in school dates back to the 1800s and was presented by the Mayor, Chas. Ward. Maypole dancing by the Moot Green, Nativities and Harvest Festivals in the Church were among other school activities. Children sang for the residents of Crespigny House, Adair Lodge and the Cottage Hospital. The School House system was also very important with children joining the House their parents or grandparents were in. Garrett, Fawcett, Wentworth and Crabbe were the original Houses. They did get renamed in the 1970s but were changed back to the originals in the late 80s. I was Fawcett (yellow) house and when I worked at the school always secretly wanted them to win although remained neutral on the outside.

My family, now with a younger brother, moved to Victoria Road in 1960 opposite the railway station. I can remember the steam trains taking us to Saxmundham in the early days and waiting until we heard the whistle to go across the road to catch the train. Again slightly in awe of the hissing steam on the platform until the diesel trains replaced them. I expected to go to the Grammar School on the train in September 1966 but owing to the Dr Beeching cuts the line closed and I was among of the first students to use the bus to Leiston. My father took my sister and me to watch the last train leaving Aldeburgh, standing in the field that is now the home of the Plantation. I didn't realise the significance of this at the time but in later years realised what a shame it had been that the line closed. If it was still open would it alleviate some of the traffic problems in Aldeburgh today?

Leaving Aldeburgh in 1977 to get married and have two boys, my family, settled in Leiston. After working at Barclays Bank earlier, I joined Aldeburgh Primary School in 1993 for maternity relief cover to get me back into the workforce. The position was for a School Secretary for six months. I finally left in 2018 after 25 years! The job title changed several times over the years but the role was the same. At one time there were only 49 children attending,



FIRST PRESENTATION OF SPORTS SHIELD
TO BLUE HOUSE CAPTAINS.
DONOR ALDERMAN CHARLES WARD 1923
JOHN COLE
MR. WITHAM MR. C. WARD
ALICE KEMP ERIC HANVEY

although in later years more children moved into the area with the school growing to around 100 pupils. Many of the children who attended over the years could trace several generations of their family going to the school. By the end of my time there I could work out who the children were as they looked like their grandparents!

Early retirement in 2018 left me with time on my hands and I was very pleased to join the volunteers at Aldeburgh Museum. Helping Catherine in the office, taking minutes at the Trustee meetings, helping Fiona with children activities and stewarding have kept me busy. From wrapping pottery in bio-degradable cling film to numbering items for the archives to being on duty at the bottom of the Moot Hall steps - in all weather. As a steward, I have learnt much about the history of the Moot Hall, promoted the renovations and endeavoured to entice visitors in. I'm looking forward to the Museum being open again.

A walk to see the art installation at Minsmere chapel by Fiona Lewington

Lockdown has meant many new and varied dog walks for me and at the end of January I went on an extraordinary walk with a friend to explore the art installation set amongst the crumbling walls of the medieval chapel at Minsmere. I noticed this project featured on the BBC website and I was very keen to see it for myself. The project, named A Wing and a Prayer and funded by The Arts Council and various local sponsors "uses art of all forms to inspire us to deepen our affinity with the natural environment". We donned wellies and warm coats against the bitter January winds, and after parking by the Eels Foot pub in Eastbridge, we made our way along a very muddy footpath by the Minsmere sluice, up onto the field on which the chapel stands. Passing a couple of highland cattle and the konik ponies, we stood and admired the brightly coloured stain glass window set into the ancient stones of the chapel. It was an extraordinary experience, considering the emerging dome of Sizewell Power Station, through the trees, as a backdrop! Be aware that if you have dogs with you, dogs are not allowed into the chapel field. We later found out that the Minsmere chapel was actually the original Leiston Abbey site, built in the 1100's but moved 200 years later, due to boggy ground and the encroaching sea to its present site, further inland. If you are interested to find out more, take a look the website www.awingandaprayer.org.uk. Unfortunately, this website does not give directions, but the RSPB trail maps, showing the chapel, can be found on the RSPB Minsmere website. Although we approached from Eastbridge (footpath is from the road west of the Eel's Foot pub), it is also possible to approach from the beach, walking from Sizewell. I hope you enjoy the adventure as much as we did!



Building Aldeburgh

We are giving all readers of Moot Matters, advance notice of our lockdown competition 'Building Aldeburgh' which will be launching on Monday 15th February. Why not get creative and have a go! We are looking for local people to create a favourite landmark of Aldeburgh in 3D, out of any type of medium: cardboard, clay, wood or textiles - the choice is yours. We are hoping for all entries to be exhibited at Aldeburgh Museum when we open again in the Spring. For more information please contact Fiona at learningofficer@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk.

For awl uss owd Suff'kers A Suffolk dialect quiz

See if you can find out what these are.

One clue - they are all to do with nature!

Airy wiggle

Barley bird

Bishop Barnabee

Develling

Hornpie

King Harry

Spadger

Wapsy

Buttle

Dicky dilver

Hodman

Polliwiggle

DO YOU BUY THINGS ONLINE?

We've registered Aldeburgh Museum with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them. These include John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Boots and many more. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please give it a go and sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

[CLICK HERE FOR EASYFUNDRAISING](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

SUFFOLK QUIZ

The clue to each answer is to do with nature. Send your answers to aldeburghmuseumshop@gmail.com

A Bottle of Prosecco to the first correct answer drawn from a hat!

BBC Dr Radha's Five C's

- mental health tips to keep you mentally and emotionally well during the lockdown.

Control - *Control what you can - following medical guidance on hygiene and government guidelines on social distancing. Note down and put aside anything that you cannot control whilst in lockdown.*

Care- *Care for ourselves - eating healthily, a good sleep pattern, exercise and fresh air.*

Continuity- *Continue to carry out normal daily routines as much as possible - watch your favourite TV programmes or listen to the same radio programmes.*

Creativity- *Take up a hobby to fill your days - sewing, knitting, singing, letter writing or painting.*

Compassion- *Be kind to yourself and to others. Phone a friend and have a chat. Look out for your neighbours.*

Take care and keep safe