



Aldeburgh Museum
MOOT HALL

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TESSA BROWN -
Our newest Trustee -An Introduction

The early planning stages of the regeneration project seem an age ago now but I remember meeting quite a few of you at the Church Hall in 2016 when we were presenting initial ideas for comment. I was working as a consultant for the museum, helping to shape the foundations of the project and was involved until March 2017 when I left to have a baby.

Imagine my delight returning for a tour with Catherine in February 2020 to see the Museum and its displays transformed, and the Moot Hall looking splendid inside and out! At that time we had little idea of what lay ahead and the extent of the COVID crisis. Sadly the Museum and its visitors, both local and from further afield, have not yet been able to make the most of the improvements nor the full extent of Fiona's events programme, but that time will come. The upgrades and restructuring have made the museum more resilient and Tony has done well to negotiate additional HLF funding to help keep things ticking over; other museums up and down the country have fared considerably worse and the museum did well to attract the number of visitors it did in 2020.

Now we can look forward to the summer season and this will be crucial for the museum and Aldeburgh as a whole. There is a pent up demand for holidays and the arts; as soon as restrictions start to be lifted visitors will return, so we need to be ready and prepared. I am very pleased to have been invited back as a trustee of the museum - I look forward to helping where I can and meeting you all in due course.
Tessa Brown



MUSEUM NEWS

Well, when are we reopening, I keep being asked? The answer is, if all goes to plan, on May 17th and we hope to be open every day until the end of October. Of course, this depends on government regulations but with infection rates dropping all looks on track. When we reopen we hope to have a number of new things to show our visitors including:

- A list of ten things not to miss on their visit to give to visitors on entry
- A new changing coastline display on a large tablet
- A book of 4 historical walks around the town
- New items in the shop
- A Virtual Tour of the museum for the website

By the opening date, all of our volunteers should have had 2 vaccinations and we hope that many more of you will feel able to help us staff the museum. To start with, and until we no longer have to socially distance and comply with government safety guidelines, we plan to have both of our museum supervisors on duty with one volunteer (as last summer).

If you know any people who would like to volunteer for us either in a front of house/meet and greet role or to assist our curatorial team then please contact us.

Keep safe everybody and let's hope we have a very successful summer season.

Tony Bone tony.bone@ixxi.co.uk

Treasures off the shore by Stephen Mael



Pilgrim
Token



Spur

The North Sea and the River Alde are both full of treasure which bears witness to the activity of coastal erosion. Casual finds of bone, glass, metal, pottery and stone frequently turn up on the beach, cast there by the prevailing currents. Objects from different periods of human activity and occupation are carried southwards to our beach and all mixed together indiscriminately.

The Museum's collection contains examples of these man-made artefacts, including stone fragments possibly from the mediaeval church of ancient Dunwich, which were found at Thorpeness by Mr T F Adams. A human thigh bone probably came from the same location as the sea eroded away graveyards. Several glass wine bottle shards dating from circa 1650-1750 were found at Slaughden, a period when Slaughden began to supersede Dunwich as a port.

Metal objects included pins, buttons and a buckle. Roman coins have been found at Aldeburgh and Slaughden dating from the time of Emperor Hadrian AD 117-138. In March 1911 a great storm exposed over 100 coins and other curiosities at Thorpeness. Ipswich archaeologist Nina Frances Layard was brought in as an expert witness at the Treasure Trove inquest at the Moot Hall on 13th April at which Coroner Mr Vulliamy decided the coins should remain in the possession of the Receiver of Wrecks Mr Chalmers, although some of the coins did eventually return to the Moot Hall and into the Museum's collections.

Pottery findings are numerous and vary in type and date. Roman cooking pots c. 100-200AD were found in the Rive Alde with the remains of porridge inside. Mingled together with these man-made relics are all sorts of geological curiosities, swept down from more northerly parts. They include amber, banded flint, agate, jet and coal.

Curators Corner

A Curious Sort of a Tail

A CUROUS
SORT OF A
TAIL.



BY
GILES
SCROGGINS.

Come list to me, you gentles all,
And you shall quickly hear
Of a werry strange proceeding, vich
But lately did occur,

All in the Town of Aldeburgh,
Down by the Suffolk shore;—
A Gent, named G—t flourished
For twenty year and more.

Vich 'ad a many ships and boats,
And coals and coke likewise;
And the profession of J. P.
Also did exercise.

Afore that Town there vos a beach,
And on that beach vos laid
A gravel walk, most pleasing, vich
Vos called the Promenade.

And there the little childering
Did play up many a game,
And nuss'ry maids and missuses
Did occupy the same.

Our bold and haffable J. P.
Thereon did often stalk—
'Eld up his 'ead and proudly said,
"I'm cock o' this ere walk."

"No carridge on this walk shall come,
In any sort of veather!
No cart, no barrer, nor no cheer,
No nothin' votsomdever."

But "cock-a-doodle" sometimes do
Get out of his account,
And reckon cock-a-doodle *do*,
Ven cock-a-doodle *don't*.

Vun R—d P—t did come that vay,
For 'ealth to be a vaiter:—
His 'ouse vere "independant" named,
Vich likewise vos its natur.

His carridge vas a pheayton,
And warnished o'er splendacious,
His 'osses stepped tremendous,
And snorted most owdacious!

And all along that Promenade
Them 'osses pranced and tore,
As no vun never see two 'osses
Do the like afore.

All out o' bounce to that J. P.
Vich ven he sor the same,
Bust out in sich a horful vay,
As I could scarcely name.

He ses—ses 'e, "vot's this I see?
A pheayton and pair!!!"
A foamin' at the month 'e vos,
And tearin' of 'is 'air.

"You mustn't come on this ere walk,
In a chay and pair," ses 'e.
"But 'ere I ham, ses R—d P—t,
And 'ere I means to be."

"You'll summonsed be and 'ave to pay,
If so you do persist."
"And vot's the hodds?" ses R—d P—t
"There's money in my fist."

Then 'omevard to his carpingter,
Our J. P. did betake him,
And hordered 'im to fix three posts,
As strong as 'e could make 'em.

Ven R—d P—t vent hout next day,
He stops and ses, "I'm blowed
If that J. P. aint been and put
Three posts across the road."

"I've got the vill to 'ave 'em down,
And 'tis vell known, they say,
That veresomdever there's a vill,
There always is a vay."

"There's no *vay* 'ere, so vun ve'll make,
Vith a shovel and a pick."
So 'e vurks away at them ere posts,
And makes 'em cut their stick!

A Bobby, in a bran new 'at,
Then come to 'im next day,
And 'anded 'im a paper, vich
This message did convey—

Victoriar o' Vestminster,
The presence doth bespeak,
Of that 'ere vicked R—d P—t,
Afore her blessed Beak.

So R—d couldn't 'elp 'is self,
But ver hoblged to go
Afore the bench, vith feelins of
No end of grief and voe!

He couldn't prove no *alley bi*,
So things looked precious queer,
The beaks vos all agreed to make
Poor R—d pay—most dear.

Ven up there rose a lawyer bold,—
From Brentford town vos 'e—
And 'ow 'e flummoxed them 'ere beaks,
Vos vonderful to see.

He valked into 'em right and left,
Till they vos in a fix.
"Here's on to you," 'e ses, ses 'e,
Like 'arf a thousand bricks.

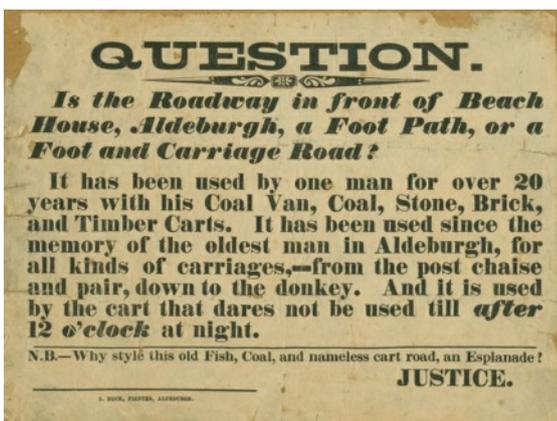
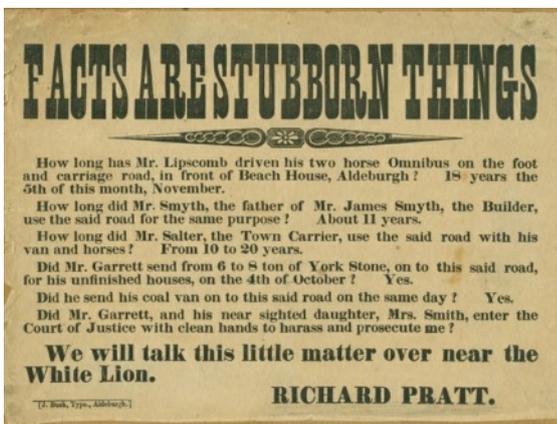
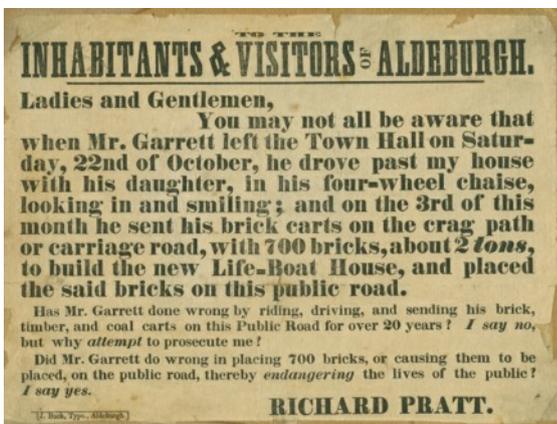
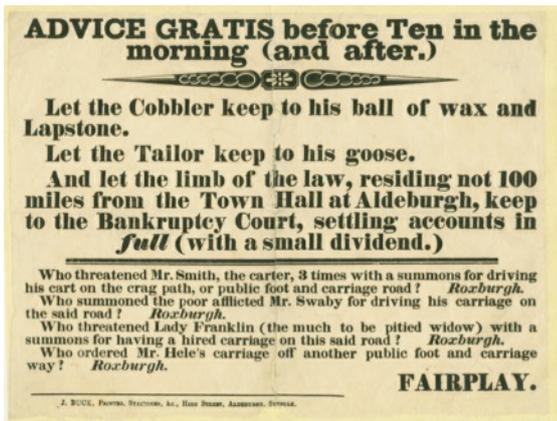
Now do your best, or do your vust,
Ve meets you face to face!
But they couldn't do no vust, and vos
Hoblged to 'journ the case.

And ven the case come on agin,
The burthing of their song
Vos R—d P—t vere werry right;
J. P. vos werry wrong!

Printed for the Proprietor by J. Buck, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

If you would like a higher resolution image of this please contact enquiries@aldeburghmuseum.org.uk

Curators Corner



A RATHER CROSS VISITOR

A visitor by the name of Richard Pratt, was incensed when told he wasn't allowed to drive his Phaeton Carriage along Crag Path.

Some local people had driven their carts and carriages along the path for many years. Others though, had been threatened by Mr Garrett J.P. with prosecution, and Mr Pratt thought it was time to set the record straight.

According to the above poem Mr Garrett erected some posts across the path, to prevent access, Mr Pratt took a shovel to them. He was then summoned to court, very concerned that he might lose the case. But a lawyer from Brentford managed to baffle the court, as it says in the above poem "*Vos R_D P_T vere werry right*"; J.P. "*vos werry wrong!*"

Note

I believe the person referenced as Roxburgh to be Sir Francis Roxburgh, QC, who lived at "The Beach House", and was appointed Recorder for Aldeburgh in 1878.

The Thorpeness Shipwreck



Many of you will have read about the wreck of the old ship that appeared on Thorpeness Beach a few weeks ago. It transpires that Nicholas Mellor, who lives there, runs a company that specialises in 3D virtual reconstructions of old buildings that have been, or are, under threat of destruction and making a virtual reality image of them. He has done work in Mali, Zanzibar and Egypt. Have a look on his website <https://www.4dheritage.com/>

“The threats to heritage in many parts of the world are acute, but the opportunities to document, share, educate and experience heritage have never been greater. Digital technology is not just transforming documentation, but how we interpret its significance; how it is shared and how it can inspire us.”

He saw the wreckage of this ship that had been uncovered by the recent storms, excited the interest of the EADT, and engages a number of experts on old boats and shipwrecks. He organised a webinar which many of you may have watched. The current view is that the ship is likely to be an old collier from the 17th century. You can read about it here <https://www.4dheritage.com/post/beach-forensics-unravelling-the-mystery-of-a-sudden-appearance-of-a-wreck>

Last weekend the mystery deepened. The wreck had disappeared and rumours abounded of men from the council with a flat bed truck taking it away. Luckily nothing so awful had happened. The sea had simply covered it with shingle again.

Now Nicholas is putting together an education and outreach programme based upon this and other shipwrecks that have taken place along this stretch of coast. Aldeburgh Museum is hoping to work with him on this and maybe mount an exhibition in the late summer.

Vegetable Quiz

Each word is a fruit or vegetable missing its vowels.

1. TMT
2. VCD
3. BRGN
4. SPRGS
5. PRCT
6. CRGTT
7. RTCHK
8. NN
9. P
10. PTT
11. RNG

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](#)

Send your answers to

aldeburghmuseumshop@gmail.com

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

Answers to the Flower Quiz
The winner was Judy Gardham and she will get a bottle of Prosecco

- 1, Rose.
- 2, Wallflower.
- 3, Dandy lion.
- 4, Viola.
- 5, Lambstails.
- 6, Cyclamen.
- 7, Sweet pea.
- 8, Red hot poker.
- 9, Tulips.
- 10, Foxglove.
- 11, Busy lizzie.
- 12, Poppy.
- 13, Cowslip.
- 14, Honesty.
- 15, Forget-me-not.
- 16, Canterbury bells.
- 17, Freesia.
- 18, Bluebell line.
- 19, Buttercup.
- 20, Primrose.
- 21, Sweet William.
- 22, Love-in-a-mist.
- 23, Morning glory.
- 24, Marigold.