



NEWSLETTER

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TRING LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM OPENS ITS DOORS

After years of planning and hard work, Tring Local History Museum opened to the public at the end of September. The joint project between Tring & District Local History & Museum Society and Tring Town Council was made possible by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, topped up by local fundraising.

Designed by Ian Haswell around a concept by Sally Ackroyd, the content was painstakingly researched and put together by society members. The last few frantic weeks were co-ordinated by Libby Finney, helped by DHT's curator Isobel Aptaker. The opening was deliberately low-key but a formal event is being planned.

The museum, in Brook Street, occupies the building from which surveyors W. Brown & Co. and successors conducted their livestock market for over a century. The site is home to Tring's weekly charter market and fortnightly Farmers' Market. It is convenient for car parks, bus stops and cafes, with the Auction Rooms next door.



Visitors enter a glazed outer gallery and continue into a display area laid out in chronological sequence, telling the story of Tring and surrounding villages down the years. Objects in cases, ranging from fossils and archaeology to costume and medals, are accompanied by text panels, colour-co-ordinated with a time-line. Victorian photographs are displayed on a screen. Younger visitors can dig for buried objects; try on replica costumes and complete jigsaws. The museum will continue to

develop, seeking local material from other museums and showing temporary and themed displays, once we have our breath back.

The museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays between 10 am and 4 pm and admission is free, although donations are invited. The museum is stewarded by two volunteers on each occasion. We would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping; they should contact Pauline Parslow on 01442 825041 (See our website www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk)

Tim Amsden, Chairman Tring & District Local History & Museum Society

Photos: Top – the open museum (courtesy of Mike Bass). Bottom – Dressing the displays Tim Amsden, Roger Hopkins and Roy Gore (courtesy of Sue Gore).



The Dacorum Heritage Trust Limited.

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INSPIRING THE FUTURE – COMMUNITY FILM-MAKING PROJECT



The end of summer is always a competitive time amongst people of all ages. Children going back to school compete amongst each other for having the most impressive summer. Unfortunately this childish behaviour continues on even after the school years are over. My reply to boasts of “I spent two weeks on a Greek Island getting this fabulous tan”, or, “I spent my summer

working at a resort in Florida” was “well I spent my summer making three films that were premiered and launched to YouTube...!”. Suffice to say I had the most impressive claim!

Before the summer was over I started looking online for ideas on how to spend my 18 week long summer off from my university studies. I came across an advertisement from The Dacorum Heritage Trust for a film making project for young people to make an inspirational and informative video to inspire the young people of the local area to become interested and more involved in the history of the local area. Fellow volunteers were Jake Cox, Matthew Knight and two brothers Richard and Christopher Cook also volunteering to bide their summer vacations.

The project was successfully completed through the devotion of two working days throughout the week which gave all the volunteers the chance to engage in other social and personal activities but provided sufficient time to script, film and edit the footage. We were aided by Nina Bevan, Assistant Curator at the Heritage Trust to brainstorm and develop ideas for the films. We were further assisted with our research by local Archaeologist Jonathan Hunn whilst community film maker Mark O’Sullivan developed our film making skills.

The current job climate is not favourable for young people with unemployment on the rise and increased cut backs. Many of my friends graduated from summer this year and unfortunately face no prospect of work in the near future. From experience I can say that volunteering is a fantastic way to utilise time otherwise spent idly. I was able to exercise my initiative and team leader skills as well as partaking on the project as a team member. As an aspiring film maker I gained valuable skills by contributing to the scripting, directing and producing of a series of three films that were exclusively premiered before both Mayors of Dacorum and Berkhamsted and are now uploaded to YouTube under the Dacorum Heritage Trust’s page.

It’s not every day you hear a story of a group of five young people between the ages of 17 and 22 to voluntarily research for and produce films on World War One. Truth is we did.

Our verdict - We enjoyed every moment. We also learnt through a street survey targeting 16-25 year olds residing in and around the local area that they approved of the project we were working on and that our time and efforts were well spent.

Most importantly, our hard work was recognised and rewarded by the Museum staff, local authorities, Vinolved and many more in the future as the credits on our CVs are priceless.

I would like to invite you to view the fruits of our voluntary labour at: www.youtube.com/user/DacHeritage

Nafisah Javed

Photos: Top - Jake, Nafisah, Matthew and Richard during one of the early planning sessions with Mark O’Sullivan in the Search Room. Bottom - Nafisah, Jake, Richard and Matthew preparing to film the interviews with the public in High Street, Berkhamsted.





DHТ's first community films have proved to be a great hit. The idea was originally conceived by Nina Bevan, who subsequently obtained a grant from the MLA (Museums, Libraries and Archives Council) to fund the purchase of a video camera and laptop in order for us to go ahead.

Julie Massey, Herts County Museum's Development Officer, facilitated expert advice and training from Mark O'Sullivan, a professional community film-maker. Mark trained everyone in filming techniques and advised on technical aspects for the project.

The project was also supported by Kings Langley Players who provided the army uniforms used at various stages of the production.

Five young people (all aged 16-25) were recruited from the national youth volunteering program Vinolved and have worked with the DHT Curatorial staff to produce three short films about inspirational people from Dacorum's past.

The young people decided to focus the project on the First World War; as much more is known about the Second World War. So they decided to explore how Dacorum was affected by the 1914-1918 war.

The project began in June with an object handling session. The aim of this was to learn how to handle and package artefacts. The young people were also introduced to possible characters that could be the subjects for films. These included artists and authors as well as prominent local characters and local war heroes.

The film has been broken into three sections; an introduction with a public consultation, a study of local war heroes Christopher Cox and Jack Evans, and the final one highlights the places affected by the war-time activities in this area. Archaeologist Jonathan Hunn is interviewed where he explains the extensive trenches and ranges created on Berkhamsted and Northchurch Commons used by the Inns of Court Regiments to train officers in different warfare techniques.

The film was premiered in September 2010 at Berkhamsted School's library (Castle Street). Appropriately this library was built to commemorate those former students who died serving their country during the Great War. We would like to thank the school for kindly arranging and hosting this event.



Photos: Top - L to R – Jake Cox, Richard Cook and Matthew Knight preparing to film some of the artefacts from the collections relating to Jack Evans (having just returned to The Museum Store from filming a scene).

Bottom - At the film premiere - L to R – Cllr. Julie Laws (Mayor of Berkhamsted), Cllr. Roger Taylor (Mayor of Dacorum), Christopher Cook, Richard Cook, Nafisah Javed, Matthew Knight, Nina Bevan (DHT Assistant Curator) and Jake Cox.

GEORGE TURNER 1936 - 2010



Tring's Local History & Museum Society suffered a sad loss just a day before its new museum opened to visitors. George Turner, who learned only in April that he had contracted lung cancer, died in Wycombe Hospital on 13th September.

With his two brothers and three other unrelated boys, George was brought up in Albert Street by a remarkable single foster-mother. A happy childhood was enlivened when soldiers with their lorries started training in Tring Park. After school at Gravelly and Tring High Street, he went on to technical school in Watford and was apprenticed in building design. National Service intervened and he served in Germany with the Royal Signals. Returning to Tring he embarked on a varied career in shop fitting, automation and military engineering, much of which was in classified areas.

For many years the principal fascination in George's life was astronomy. He helped to build the observatory at Upper Winchendon and remained a trustee of Aylesbury Astronomical Society. Local history came to dominate his retirement, joining the Society's committee in 1999 and taking over from Trevor Marwood as its curator in 2003. In addition to the work of accessioning objects added to the collection. George also attended Herts Museum Group meetings, jointly compiled and printed the Society's newsletter and did a hundred and one other tasks, mostly the unsung ones. He played a prominent role in preparing the Society's two bids for lottery funding and his knowledge of all things technical was of immense help once the building and fitting out began. As the pace speeded up, so his health declined. He had been expected to leave hospital, and to view the completed project, on the very day he died.

A man of regular habits, George's gruff exterior and awesome eyebrows concealed a very warm-hearted, sociable and gentlemanly character with a wealth of experience and knowledge. He will be greatly missed. Tim Amsden

Photo: The Tring team including George Turner and Tim Amsden arrived early for a DHT Quiz Night in 2009.

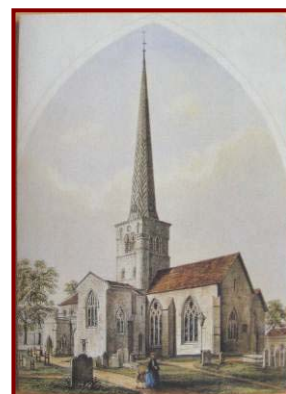
CURATOR'S CORNER

Quiz Night. Our annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday 22nd January at Hemel Hempstead Community Church, Haven House, 389 London Road (next to the gasometer by the railway), Boxmoor HP3 9AB. There is plenty of parking and disabled access; the doors will open at 7.30 pm. for a prompt 8.00 pm. start. Tickets are £4.00 each, tables of 6 (max). There will also be light refreshments and a raffle. For tickets contact the curators. A good time guaranteed!

DHT Christmas Cards. These beautiful cards are available in packs of 5 for £1.00 (plus 35p. P&P). Our cards are of St. Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead, from a coloured proof engraving 'Published by S. T. Greaves, High Street', dated c.1850.

Fundraising Quiz Sheets – International Quizzer. This year's theme is anagrams of countries. The prize winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by the closing date (Friday 11th January 2011). You can get your quiz sheet for just **£1.00**.

For the above, contact the curators & cheques payable to 'Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd.'.



ARTEFACTS FROM THE COLLECTIONS



A pair of spectacles from the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society's collection. The rims and arms are made from synthetic imitation tortoiseshell material, with some damage to the lenses. They date from c. 1925, and are very evocative of this era.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.



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The Dacorum History Digest

www.dacorumhistory.bravehost.com



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EDITOR: Pam Gasking, contact me at The Museum Store or gasking166@btinternet.com