



NEWSLETTER

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www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

This September DHT celebrates the 20th anniversary since the formation of the company. We have the opportunity to review the last two decades plus our hopes and aspirations for the future of the heritage service in Dacorum. DHT owes its success to its directors, staff, volunteers and hundreds of supporters, who over the years have kept the original ambitions alive and promoted the local heritage. Without all those dedicated folk we would not be in a position to share the local history stories with the wider community.

MUSEUM & ART GALLERY – THE PHOENIX PROJECT

It is a matter of profound pleasure that this celebratory DHT Newsletter provides the opportunity for the first public announcement that this long-held ambition may now be moving towards fruition. It is a matter that has been discussed at great length between Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) and ourselves in confidence for two years. It has just been agreed that last years' first joint meeting by DHT, DBC and the Heritage Lottery Fund, can now be followed up by a more detailed discussion in the very near future, since funding remains an important factor.



The Bury in Queensway, Hemel Hempstead.

It was 30 years ago that the Dacorum Museum Advisory Committee (DMAC), DHT's predecessor, first identified The Bury as an ideal property to house a future Dacorum Museum. Undoubtedly, we are now heading towards a lengthy period of detailed discussions with everyone associated with heritage provision throughout Dacorum. We need to ensure that the museum and art gallery provides regularly changing displays representing the extraordinarily varied heritage and culture in the district.

This great opportunity to properly display our store of artefacts at last and tell the story of the history of our area must be seized with both hands, literally as well as metaphorically. DHT's growing art collection deserves to be professionally displayed and with the possible addition of archives from DBC and the Gazette, an enlarged display/work space is urgently needed.

The further opportunities for research must also be acknowledged and a purpose-designed museum or heritage centre, with an accompanying store, will add to this prime desire. Although the research carried out by staff, directors and other volunteers over those 30 years has taken the collections to their present admirable level, there is so much more to be done. A central research base with adequate workspace would increase the potential for volunteers and give impetus to the whole project.

Educational outreach, already an intrinsic part of DHT's work, would be made a key part of the activities, with a wider potential than is currently possible. A dedicated member of staff for this essential community engagement would be something to aim for if The Bury (Phoenix Project) is realised.

DHT has not got to this position without a 'behind the scenes' team of dedicated volunteers. The directors have spent many hours in preparing the ground for such a major move and the whole-hearted support of staff will be a vital factor in the transition. The cooperation of volunteers will be, without question, just as important if the dream is to be realised and a Museum for Dacorum become a reality in our lifetime. Let us hope that, like the mythical phoenix, this really can rise from the ashes and regenerate the enthusiasm we shall require to succeed.

Roger Hands, Chairman, The Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd.

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

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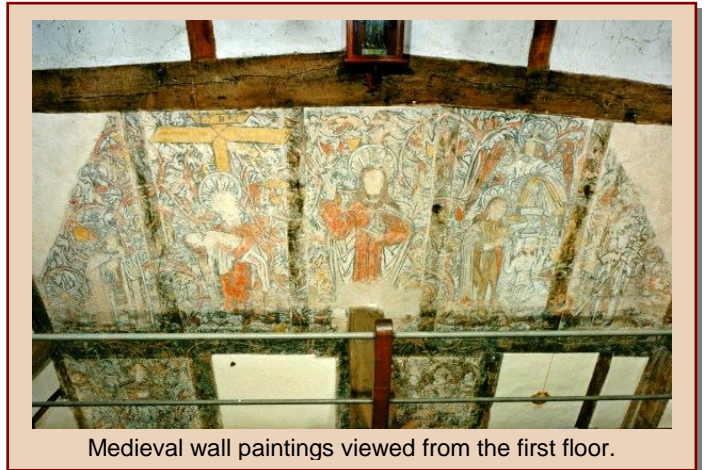
Company Registered in England No. 2851313. Registered Charity No. 1026161. Accredited Museum No. 1594.

PICCOTTS END COTTAGE & MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTINGS

132 Piccotts End is one of three Grade I listed, 15th century timber-framed cottages, close to the centre of Hemel Hempstead, which contains unique wall paintings. The cottage was situated on the pilgrim route to Ashridge Monastery, (College of Bonhommes) which was dissolved in 1539 during the Reformation.

The owner, Arthur Lindley, discovered the Pre-Reformation Catholic paintings in 1953. It is believed that the murals were only on view for about 50 years before they were covered by wallpaper.

This is the third attempt to acquire the cottage containing these unique wall paintings, but both previous occasions DHT failed to purchase because the owners found alternative cash purchasers. The current owners have had frequent meetings with both DHT and the Council. The position is now that the end house and adjacent cottage have been sold and the cottage with the murals is still for sale. If a way could be found for DHT to either buy outright or lease the cottage and open it to visitors, (even if only for small groups at pre-arranged times), then this wonderful, historic treasure could be preserved.



Medieval wall paintings viewed from the first floor.

DBC say they cannot fund the purchase and Heritage Lottery Fund say the sustainability of the site is dependent on a bigger local museum taking over the responsibility for it. So now it is down to DHT to find a way forward. The Bury project would answer the second proviso and DHT will do everything in its power to find a way around the first. The two are so interdependent; we need to commit now to both schemes. The future residents of Dacorum would never forgive us if we fail.

The cottage will be open as part of the Heritage Open Days, booking is essential as numbers are strictly limited. There is more information in 'Curators' Corner', to book your place contact us on 01442 879525.

Roger Hands, Chairman, The Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd.

DHT - THE TRANSITION AND NEW BEGINNING

DMAC developed a sound reputation for touring exhibitions and publications. Its aim was to investigate the idea of a Borough Museum and there was no doubt that the Council felt under some pressure to provide one. In October 1990 I (Michael Dillon) was appointed DBC Heritage Officer. This was a welcome and clear sign that DBC was quickly developing its own interest in Dacorum's heritage. Twenty years on it may seem strange but Roger Hands, Peter Clayton and others will remember those differing viewpoints. I had to tread carefully, toeing the Council line (they paid my salary, after all!) but encouraging the voluntary sector and gradually seeking more professional support and grant aid. There was a third party in the arrangement (the museum profession). I wanted to earn the respect of my peers, get significant funding and develop the DMAC reputation, both in Hertfordshire and beyond.



The old fire station building before conversion.

'to encourage, enable and support' but NOT to provide a museum; which was one of the aspirations of DMAC. I was aware of this at the interview and it was one of the reasons I accepted the job. It was an opportunity to develop a new museum service in a different way, not through direct council provision but by working with the voluntary sector. This had been done before by many charitable museums, with established collections and a clear story to tell. What had not been done before was to pool responsibility for the varied collections within the Borough and develop a public service without a museum building. Here was I, a DBC officer, trying to get people to work together and establish correct museum professional standards and agree a common way forward. Several societies wanted their own local museums. Others were firm in their opinion that they wanted a Dacorum Museum and that it should be in Hemel Hempstead.

DMAC had been collecting objects for many years, stored in bedrooms, attics and a garage somewhere in the Old Town area; hardly in the best conditions and rarely useful for exhibitions. I could clearly see that something ought to be done and that this should be the priority and catalyst that could bring the societies and collectors together to provide communal care for the collections and, eventually, a communal heritage store. We could then have an active Collecting Policy. Any museum could come later and could only be possible if we had a strong well-managed collection, representative of the heritage of Dacorum. Alongside this major aim was the day-to-day work of the temporary exhibition programme complementing the annual displays that DMAC continued to produce. The first display was in a new design format, which set a pattern for the future. It was worryingly expensive and I remember fearing that we could not sustain the display programme for long. However, the exhibition had a positive impact with the Council and I was able to submit a programme of activities, which gained their support. I had a budget! Credibility was beginning to grow.

This raised the question of organisation. DMAC was fine as a loose-knit group of like-minded people but we needed a firmer structure, which would protect the local societies collections and could be used as a vehicle to get grant aid. There were many lengthy debates over the Aims and Articles of Association of the proposed Heritage Trust and the question of ownership of the collections was one of the central issues.



The garage originally had very high ceilings to accommodate the fire tenders so the upper level floor was lowered, and became the General Store with the Sensitive Store at the far end.

Local societies were not keen on giving away collections to an untried and untested Heritage Trust. At that time, the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) was doubtful about offering grant aid to an organisation that did not own its collections. There was some talk of a 'gentleman's agreement' but I felt this would not satisfy professional bodies such as the MGC. My own view was that the care of the collections was more important than ownership; we eventually agreed a form of words to satisfy everyone (more or less!). The Trust could also then build up its own collection. Eventually, when the store came along and societies could see the collection being housed, conserved, documented and displayed – at no cost to them - then the question of ownership became less important.

The Dacorum Heritage Trust was launched on 19th September 1993.

The collections clearly needed a new home, the Council soon found a Berkhamsted property it owned. Alan Gater, DBC's Head of Property was particularly supportive in the detailed planning of the store. I presented the major report to the Management Team, in June 1993. I was relieved and surprised by the level of support and

the proposal sailed through. I felt I had broken through some kind of barrier. Council's policy had always been not to provide a museum building but they were happy to provide a museum store, a building in anything but name! After much planning, and securing £20,000 worth of support from the MGC and more grant aid from the then South Eastern Museums Service, the Berkhamsted store was opened in autumn 1994. Over time, DBC came to realise that there was a way forward, at a manageable expense that it was happy with.

The store enabled the various collections to come together in one place where they could be catalogued, conserved and made available for public displays and enquiries. The collections could then grow more rapidly and actively with a public appeal for donations, knowing we could look after objects at a professional museum level. We could attempt to stop what I called the 'Heritage Drain' from Dacorum.

DHT was up and running and accepted managerial responsibility for the store. Another success, also in late 1994, was the appointment of Mike Stanyon as Documentation Officer, based at the store. This Council post was initially part grant-aided by SEMS. He was able to use his interest in computers to apply the MODES cataloguing system. Mike came with many years of experience and much credibility within the local history/archaeology community and was another useful bridge between Council and volunteers. This was clearly a step towards DHT employing its own staff.

Councillor John Nichols was a great supporter of DHT and its first Chairman. It seemed natural then that a Councillor should be Chairman since DBC provided most of the funding, this provided a way of measuring and controlling Council's support. One of the great pleasures of my stay in Dacorum was working with John; his long experience and diplomacy countered my youthful enthusiasm. His quiet and patient influence behind the scenes at a political level probably should not be underestimated. With greater confidence between Council and Trust, it now seemed equally natural that the Chairman should not be a Councillor; Roger Hands was the obvious choice.

I remember Roger for his genial determination, Peter Clayton for his expertise and contacts. Eric Edwards for the newsletter and the trip up Flamstead church tower, Denis Miles and Frank Davies for all things Kings Langley, Bill Cooper when he was secretary and many other friendly contacts throughout the Borough too numerous to mention.

Now retired, I look back on my six years in Dacorum with happy memories it was a pleasure to work with both colleagues and friends. DHT is now an accredited museum with a well-earned professional reputation within the museum world. The Trust has proved that it IS possible to achieved registered museum status and provide a public service – even without a museum building. This challenged traditional museum thinking in the 1990s.

I hope that DBC realises now that it has a vibrant heritage sector that deserves its support and which provides a service to the Borough and beyond at remarkably low cost. As for the future, there still remains the problem and opportunity of Piccotts End (which hit Council's fear of acquiring a building when I was there) and I still hope, even after 20 years, that a way forward can be found.

Michael Dillon



Looking from the now Archaeology Store to the Staff Office (until recently the Search Room).



A lot of scaffolding and a new roof.

DBC DOCUMENTATION OFFICER

My link with DMAC goes back to 1983 helping to research the first 'Railway in Dacorum' exhibition. As an exhibitions committee member I automatically became a DHT director at its inception in September 1993. After Mike Dillon had arranged for grants to convert the former Fire Engine house at Berkhamsted into a store, it was necessary to equip and man an otherwise empty building. I had been responsible for the emptying and dismantling a vast electronics storage facility in Basildon, and was

allowed to acquire a large quantity of racking, shelving and furniture for the DHT charity. Having been redundant from March 1994 I applied for the DBC Documentation Officer job to Mike Dillon. I spent the first week preparing for the handover of the building on Friday the 22nd July. The following Monday I was able to start bringing items into the store including the computer on which the first MODES records would be created.



Pest control with a fumigation chamber.

The following weeks went by in a blur, teams of volunteers cleaning and setting up the shelving and racking. Bringing in masses of material from the various places, passing them through Rentokil's fumigation chamber containing the highly poisonous Methyl Bromide gas to eliminate pests. Collections Director, Bill Cooper, arranged for two teams of NADFAS volunteers to augment the society members on Wednesday mornings. Coffee times on those days were most enjoyable mayhem. Documentation procedures were put in place and it was with a sigh of relief when Matt Wheeler arrived as Curator. My DBC duties gradually took me away from the store for much of the time, by this time I had become Community Heritage Officer.

There were three outstanding aspects before my retirement in August 2001. Firstly the celebration of fifty years of Hemel Hempstead New Town during which DHT films were shown to a packed audience at The Pavilion. The arrival of John Croft (later to be DHT's IT Director) as a volunteer allowed the development of the

DALEK touch screen PC's installed in various points around the borough. Finally during the millennium year I was able to secure funding for DHT to do a four-week excavation under the direction of Dr David Neal at Gadebridge Park leading to an exhibition, viewing of a specially commissioned film and a lecture by David Neal about the results of the excavations. Once again the Pavilion was used with an audience of over 1,000.

Michael Stanyon

THE FIRST MUSEUM STORE VOLUNTEERS

In 1994 the conversion of the old fire station at the rear of the Berkhamsted Civic Centre was complete but empty.

The building work was designed and organised by DBC and overseen by Robert Martell and Partners. The specification required the building to be fireproof and air-conditioned with intruder and fire alarms. The fireproof front reception door was later to be tested by a deliberate vehicle fire close to the building.

Mike Stanyon, newly appointed DBC officer, was the mastermind and inspiration for the next phase (the move). He approached the Berkhamsted & District Local History Society for helpers to erect the second hand shelving systems he had provided. Along with John Pitkin, Les Mitchell, Eric Holland, Jim Pullen and myself, we undertook this task willingly. It proved to be noisy with metal frames and shelves being hammered into place, electric drills fixing wall panels and occasional laughter. All men's work!

However Mike's call to the ladies, Jenny Honour and Ann Nath for help with a little 'light cleaning', a description still vividly remembered to this day, was received in good spirit. In fact it involved tiring and dirty work but was of course essential to ensure a clean starting environment.

Monday evenings were exciting times, as most of us were still in full-time employment it was a welcome change, a bit of team building and of course the reward of tea and Margaret Stanyon's homemade cakes.

On 3rd October 1994 the first stage of the move began. Berkhamsted's precious main collection, stored in the attic of Gable House in Prince Edward Street, required a human chain of volunteers to negotiate the narrow and steep staircase with others to ferry the items, some like the sewing machine being both heavy and awkward, across the yard to the Reception Bay. After fumigation treatment objects could finally be taken to their permanent location. It took several years to sort, catalogue and store all our collection and volunteering by the History Society continues to this day. The friendship of those original, now sadly depleted volunteers, remains with memories of the enjoyment obtained from working in a team and being appreciated.



Mounting artefacts in the Large Object Store.

Jimmie Honour, Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society

MATT'S MEMORIES

I joined DHT in August 1996 to become their first, full-time professional Curator. It was quite a change from St. Albans Museums where I'd started my paid working career. I'd been part of a large service there, which included various keepers, conservator, designer, photographer etc. However, with help from the DHT Board especially John Nichols and Roger Hands, I soon found my feet and settled into the new role. I was also greatly helped by Mike Stanyon. I think we made a good team and complemented each other - Mike had great local knowledge, was an expert with the documentation software and other technology and, being employed by the Council, was an invaluable link between the Trust and the Council.

I remember that my first main task was to help co-ordinate the 1996 touring exhibition, which focused on the archaeology of the Borough. I really enjoyed taking artefacts from the collection out 'on the road' to the three main towns. The next main challenge was to formulate a loan agreement, which satisfied the needs of both the Trust and the constituent societies - a tricky task but a very necessary one as it was a requirement for both the future viability of the Trust as well as for museum registration (now known as 'accreditation').

One of my proudest achievements was to help DHT gain registered museum status despite not having a museum building in the traditional sense of the word. Another achievement was to re-establish the 'Friends of Dacorum Museum', I was greatly helped by the new committee members who gave countless hours of their time on a voluntary basis. I had many happy times with DHT. I especially enjoyed Wednesday mornings when the local history society and members of NADFAS descended on us. There was always a great atmosphere and camaraderie with a lot of invaluable work carried out. I also enjoyed all the different exhibition projects, 'Hemel Goes Gold' in 1997 and the Bayeux Tapestry project are two that stick in the mind.



Matt with a new artefact.

Changes naturally followed, Mike moved on, an Assistant Curator was appointed with Catherine joining us plus Pam and Bev taking over much of the administrative burden in the office following the departure of Bill Glover and Joyce Ballard. This was very useful because by then I had become a retained fire fighter for both Wheathampstead (where I lived with my wife Anne) and a little later for Berkhamsted. I'm sure some of the staff and volunteers recall my pager going off and me hurtling out the door with my bike to pedal furiously down Castle Street to the fire station every time we had a 'shout'. I always made up any lost time but will always be grateful to the directors for allowing me to do this to help the town. I left DHT in April 2005 to work as Curator for Cheshire County Council. My remit was to develop both the Salt Museum in Northwich and Stretton Watermill, a 17th century corn mill. After five years or so, life changed once more with central Government reorganisation; the change didn't really suit me and we started thinking again about pastures new.

In early 2011, I spotted an opportunity to become Curator/Manager of the Irish Agricultural Museum on the Johnstown Castle estate, County Wexford in the Republic of Ireland and that's where I am now. As I have a family background in farming it feels like I've come full circle!

We enjoy being close to lovely beaches where we walk our dogs. Do look us up if you ever pass this way and congratulations to everyone involved in the Trust for achieving this significant landmark. All the best for the future!

Matt Wheeler

CATHERINE'S STORY

I arrived at DHT from the Tank Museum in Dorset and spent four rewarding years at The Museum Store. I have a huge amount of affection for DHT; the people associated with it and of course the objects! I remember all of our staff and volunteers with fondness, a number of whom have since sadly passed away. The Museum Store is such a happy, thriving place. Our large gatherings in the kitchen for a coffee break, particularly on the famous Wednesday mornings had us jostling for space; there were so many people passionate about our history.



Catherine in the Large Object Store.

Soon after becoming Curator, Richard Lewis was appointed Assistant Curator. We were a great team and worked well together for two years. I reluctantly had to leave DHT when my husband was posted to Lincolnshire with the RAF. We have now relocated back to our native Lancashire, or the 'frozen North' as John Pitkin referred to it! Since leaving University, I have moved house nine times and lived all over the country (and worked in some great museums!) and so it's now wonderful to be able to put down some roots.

I loved every aspect of my work at DHT, particularly working with schools and the public. It was so satisfying to be able to help someone with family history enquiries and to inspire school children to think about our collections in an exciting way. This led onto implementing a programme of WWII school object handling sessions and to introduce themed loan boxes on a variety of subjects.

Countless tours of The Museum Store, Frogmore Mill, talks to local groups and research for exhibitions on a variety of subjects, all conveyed pride in the history of Dacorum. Early in 2006, it was apparent that The Museum Store was becoming full and I had a dream of installing mobile shelving to combat the problem. Thanks to the fundraising team and a huge amount of logistics, it became a reality. I am still in touch with a number of people from DHT. All my best wishes for the future of the Dacorum Heritage Trust.

Catherine Peet

RICHARD'S STORY

Since leaving DHT my life has moved in a completely new direction. I now live in the Czech Republic. I first arrived here in early 2009 and took a teaching qualification; this enabled me to teach English as a foreign language. I have worked for several schools but now work as an independent teacher. This has been a great experience although I believe that now I am ready for a new challenge, whatever that may be.

When Pam asked me to write something about my time at DHT, the first thing that came into my mind wasn't the collections or the exhibitions, it was the people, the volunteers, the directors, the staff and the supporters. In 2005 I was a nervous 22-year-old Assistant Curator, fresh from University, luckily everyone made me feel very welcome. Catherine Peet was the Curator, I simply couldn't have wished for a better person to work with, she was very competent, patient and had an excellent northern sense of humour.

Besides Catherine DHT was full of characters, sadly many of whom are no longer with us and are sadly missed. I will never forget sharing coffee breaks with the likes of John Pitkin, Ken Wallis, Jimmie Honour, Jenny and Ken Sherwood to mention but a few. Coffee and a biscuit was an opportunity to actively debate the history of the area, to propose theories, to ask questions, to share, to learn and to argue (a little). In these 10 - 15 minutes the history always came to life, it is really this sharing and enthusiasm for history that DHT is all about. I cannot remember exactly how many hours of my life were spent listening to discussions about where Berkhamsted ended and Northchurch began, but I enjoyed them all.



Official visit by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire with Richard Lewis.

I am going to try to resist talking too much about the collections and exhibitions, that said I do have a fondness for the works of Lefevre Cranstone and the HLF grant that Eric Edwards successfully applied for was a great achievement allowing that important collection to stay in Dacorum. The enthusiasm of all those associated with DHT from Roger Hands to Pam and Bev were infectious and is what made the organisation special. It is this energy that drives and pushes it forward. Thanks to everyone that helped me enjoy my time in Dacorum and good luck for the future. I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to come and visit.

Richard Lewis

LYNDSEY'S STORY



Richard Lewis, Lyndsey and Roger Hands.

I've moved around quite a bit since leaving Dacorum, chasing the ever-elusive museum job, now settled in London for the past three years. DHT provided me with invaluable experience – working with volunteers, creating handling collections, working in partnership and the importance of an 11 am tea break.

I knew quite early on that I am not a born curator. I left DHT to work (maternity cover) as Communities Engagement Officer with the National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh. I then moved on to Glasgow Museums, to work as a Learning & Access Curator at the Burrell Collection.

The contract ended and I moved back down south to the London Transport Museum, initially as a Community Engagement Officer, and now as Public Programmes Manager, a role I have been in for the past two years. This role involves devising, organising and managing the public events programme. But if it weren't for DHT giving me my first "real" job, I wouldn't be doing any of this at all.

Lyndsey McLean

DHT & BEYOND – A CURATOR'S DREAM

DHT is an amazing organization. Amazing because it is not just a Museum Store but because it incorporates the collections of most major local history and archaeology societies in the Borough. Despite funding cuts and at times, an uncertain future, it has survived for 20 years, providing a hugely important service to the people of Dacorum by preserving and promoting the wealth of history, heritage and culture that Dacorum has to offer.

When, last December, I faced the interview panel for the position of Curator, the first question I was asked was, "What do you think of our Museum Store?" Without any hesitation I replied, "This is a Museum waiting to happen". Little did I know that those words were precisely what so many people involved with DHT had been thinking and hoping for since its creation.

Now we stand on the brink of greatness. Considerable effort and delicate negotiations have taken place with one aim in mind – to establish a brand new Museum for the Borough of Dacorum. And about time to! If successful, this will be a Museum to be proud of, with public galleries to enjoy, a rolling programme of temporary exhibitions, dedicated storage facilities, opportunities for research, event space for the provision of outreach activities and support for our schools, refreshments and so much more. In fact, all the services and functions that a full-blown public museum should have.

It's been an amazing first six months as Curator. Working with fabulous, dedicated staff, extraordinary volunteers and being part of an amazing dream. Right now that dream is getting very close. Soon, I hope, I'll be living it!

Dr. Paul Hyman, Curator

TWO DECADES OF PROGRESS

A great deal can be achieved in two decades. Here are just a small selection of our achievements.

1993

- Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd. company formed

1994

- Newsletter launched.
- The Museum Store conversion completed
- Marlowes Pedestrianisation exhibition

1995

- 'Dacorum at War' exhibition

1996

- 'Early Archaeology of Dacorum' exhibition
- The post of The Museum Store Curator is created

1997

- 'Hemel Goes Gold' exhibition
- Registered Museum status granted by the Museums & Galleries Commission

- 11,000 accessioned items on our archive database

1998

- Re-launch of The Friends of Dacorum Museum
- 'Images of Dacorum's Heritage' exhibition including the 'The Bayeux Tapestry Finale'

1999

- 'The Dacorum Canal' exhibition
- Dacorum WWI Roll of Honour millennium project

2000

- First website launched and email addresses allocated
- 'Railways of Dacorum' exhibition
- Gadebridge Roman Villa re-excavation exhibition

2001

- 'Sporting Dacorum' exhibition
- Full Registration granted by Museum Registration Scheme

2002

- 'Royal Dacorum' exhibition
- 35,650 accessioned items on our archive database
- Assistant Curator & two part-time admin posts created

2003

- 'Fourdrinier 200' exhibition in Fiberspace, Frogmore Mill
- WWII Object Handling Sessions for schools launched
- 'Mills of Dacorum' exhibition

2004

- Victorian Object Loan Box for schools launched
- 'Asian Roots' exhibition part of Diverse Hertfordshire
- 'Dickinson 200' exhibition in Fiberspace, Frogmore Mill
- BBC's 'WW2 People's War' project with Herts Libraries
- DHT closure threat, DBC consider withdrawing funding

2005

- Following public outcry DBC continue to fund DHT
- 'Digging for Victory in Dacorum' exhibition
- 'Tuesday Tours at Two' are introduced
- 'Super 100 Heritage Club' fundraising lottery launched

2006

- Website updated and re-launched
- Mobile shelving installed in the General Store

2007

- Mobile shelving installed in the Archaeology Store
- 'Lefevre Cranstone' exhibition
- 'Reminiscence' Loan Box created

2008

- 63,870 accessioned items on our archive database

- Store tours for Museums & Galleries Month launched
- Full Museum Accreditation is gained from Museums, Libraries & Archive Council
- The Museum Store opens for Heritage Open Days
- 'Winter in Dacorum' activity & exhibition at Potten End

2009

- Public Consultation exhibition - plans for Heritage Centre in part of our premises

- First of our Festival of British Archaeology events
- 'Foundling Voices' project with the Foundling Museum

2010

- 'Evacuation Experience' school workshop introduced
- The Gazette weekly 'Heritage Page' introduced
- Dacorum Heritage Youtube channel is set up
- 'Inspiring the Future' Community Film Making Project
- 'Victorian Sampler Project' for schools introduced
- 'My Place' photographic project with DENS and Kodak

2011

- 'Our Dacorum' website goes live Adult Learners Week with Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies
- 'Travel & Transport' under 5's loan box part of ECAT

2012

- New photographic display in Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre for the Queens Diamond Jubilee
- New exhibition area in Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre
- Bronze Arts Award school project is piloted

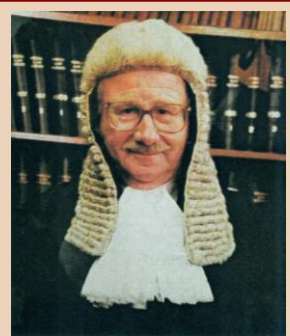
2013

- 'Staying Alive' project with History of Advertising Trust and other Hertfordshire and Suffolk museums
- Twitter account and new website launched
- 116,800 accessioned items on our archive database



Dacorum Heritage Trust's 10th Anniversary. L-R: John Nichols, Roger Hands, Peter Clayton, Eric Edwards and Mike Stanyon.

OBITUARY - GORDON HEWETT HODGSON (1929 – 2013)



Gordon grew up in a world shaped by conflict and tragedy. After Berkhamsted Prep School he attended Oundle School, before post war National Service in the Education Corps where he taught basic literacy. He read law at UCL then entered the Bar, developing a common and criminal law practice. Gordon loved the law its structure, logic and eccentricity; it was his vocation. He was a dutiful, principled and fair servant of the law, making many friends as a peacemaker; retiring as Master of the Supreme Court.

It is impossible to remember Gordon (our former Company Secretary) without recalling his sense of humour, taking mischievous and sly delight in the absurdities of the world. He was a party animal, happy to be surrounded by friends and family.

Gordon married Pauline in 1958, and then moved to a family home in Bovingdon, where they raised their sons and shared many happy years together. A kind and thoughtful gentleman, he was an integral part of the DHT 'family'. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered.

CURATOR'S CORNER

Our New Website. We are very excited as our new website will be launched on 3rd September. It is bigger and better than the old one with a more modern and user-friendly feel to it. We invite you to take a look; it has been professionally designed by local company Ambrit Ltd. in Northchurch, and funded by a successful grant last year. The web address is the same as before – www.dacorumheritage.org.uk - we think you will pleasantly surprised.

Sign up now to our newsletter mailing list. Get your copy of our newsletter delivered directly to your desktop or read it on the go. Don't miss out, email the editor and your name will be added to our mailing list. In compliance with the Data Protection Act your details will remain confidential and not sold or circulated to any third party. We may occasionally send you additional information, or invitations to our community events.



Antique Identification Days. Have you ever wondered about those antiques, collectibles and other objects that you have around the house, packed away in your attic or garage? Things you may have inherited or bought years ago and have forgotten about? Well now you can find out all about them, what they are and how valuable they may be! Bring them along to our team of experts, who will identify and value them for you. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you have. DHT will be holding two Antiques Identification Days at different local venues as follows:

Sunday 13th October at Ashridge House, in association with Amersham Auction Rooms.

Thursday 14th November at Shendish Manor, in association with Bonhams Auctioneers.

Entrance is £3.00 per item (maximum of 5 items per person). Open 10:00 – 16:00; easy access and free parking. Both events there will be an opportunity to find out more about us and our future plans for a Museum in Dacorum, and our popular local history bookstall.

With two fantastic venues to choose from, this will make a wonderful day out. For more information please contact 01442 879525 or curator@dacorumheritage.org.uk or visit our website at: www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter. In June, our Assistant Curator Nina set up a DHT Twitter account so now you can find out all our latest news and events at your fingertips. Follow us @DacorumHeritage which is linked to our new website.

Heritage Open Days. Booking for both venues is essential as places are limited, contact us on 01442 879525. For more information about other local events see www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Guided Tours of The Museum Store, Berkhamstead.

◇ **Friday 13th September** – Tours at 14:30 and 16:30

◇ **Saturday 14th September** – Tour at 10:30

Medieval Wall Paintings at Piccotts End Cottage. (Tours at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00 each day).

◇ **Thu 12th September**

◇ **Fri 13th September**

◇ **Sat 14th September**

◇ **Sun 15th September**

This is the first opportunity to publicly view these unique wall paintings for over 20 years. Please note there are no toilet facilities onsite. Places will be allocated on a first come basis.

HERITAGE DIARY 2013 - 2014

Constituent Society's Winter Season of Lectures and Events.

September 2013

11 (BH) 'Gruesome History of Body Snatching' R. Stephenson

18 (KL) 'History of the Nicky Line' Dave Abermethy

18 (T) 'The Grimstons of Gorhambury' John Cox

22 (BH) 'Walk Back in Time' guided tour of Berkhamsted Town & Castle. Meet at Castle Visitors Room 14.00-16.30. Adults £3, children £1.50 booking Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158 Kshew9100@aol.com

23 (BA) 'Only Guardians, Not Owners, Collecting Small Antiquities' Peter Clayton

25 (HH) 'Local Villains' Talks by Society Members

25-29 Graham Greene International Festival. See press or website for details (www.grahamgreenefestival.org)

October

9 (BH) 'Halton House 1880s to Today' Trixie Brabner

16 (KL) 'Talking to Walls, Interrogation Locally WWII' Colin Oakes

20 (BH) 'Walk Back in Time' guided tour of Berkhamsted Town & Castle. Meet at Castle Visitors Room 14.00-16.30. Adults £3, children £1.50 booking Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158 Kshew9100@aol.com

23 (HH) 'Edwin Trowell – An Unusual Local Man' Roy Wood

28 (BA) 'Shaky Foundations: Legendary Origins of Some London Churches' John Clark

November

13 (BH) 'Coleshill History, Village Once in Herts' Julian Hunt

20 (T) 'History & Archaeology of Chiltern Woods' John Morris

20 (KL) 'Dreams & Visions of DHT' Dr. Paul Hyman

25 (BA) 'World of the Minoans & Mycenaean' George Hart

27 (HH) 'The Battle of Britain' Chris Wren

December

11 (BH) 'Rothamstead, 800 Yrs of History' Prof. Roger Plumb

16 (BA) 'Domus Aurea, Nero Gold House, Rome' Anna Mangini

January 2014

15 (BH) 'Local Brick Making History' Jim Matthews

15 (KL) 'Hertfordshire & the Civil War' Dr. Alan Thomson

15 (T) 'Wooden Boat Building in Tring Area' Jem Bates

27 (BA) TBA – Dr. Paul Hyman

February

12 (BH) 'The Ancient Art of Deception' Hugh Davies

19 (KL) 'History of Bedmond - Since 1800s' John Noonan

24 (BA) 'Sandridge Hoard of Roman Solid' David Thorold

March

12 (BH) AGM & 'Dr John Incent 1480-1545, Founder of Berkhamsted School' David Pearce

19 (KL) AGM & 'River Lea or Lee, Luton - Leyton' Robert Thomas

19 (T) 'Johannes Gutenberg & Story of Print' Peter Balding

24 (BA) 'The Icknield Way, Prehistoric Highway' Paul Palmer

April

21 (BA) 'Industrial Archaeology in Hertfordshire' Brian Adams

May

21 (T) 'Wing: its Saxon church in context' Leslie Barker

Contact Details – for more information see the society websites

(BA) Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society (www.berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk) Meetings: Music Room, Berkhamsted School, Mill Street, Berkhamsted, 7.45 pm. - Hilary Grevatt 01442 254801.

(BH) Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) Meetings: Wellcome Great Hall, Town Hall, Berkhamsted, 8.00 pm. - Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158.

(HH) Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society. Meetings: Carey Baptist Church Hall, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead – Roy Wood 01442 398285 or roy.wood3@ntlworld.com

(KL) Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society (www.kingslangley.org.uk) Meetings: Baptist Church, The Nap, Kings Langley, 7.30 pm. - Richard Garnett Harper 01923 263205.

(T) Tring & Dist. Local History & Museum Society (www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk/SOCIETY.html) Meetings: Parish Hall, St. Mary's Church, Tring, 8.00 pm. – Shelley Savage 01442 827702



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Saving Our Heritage

The accuracy of the content is the responsibility of the author.

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