

FRIENDS OF WOODBRIDGE MUSEUM

Winter Newsletter January 2021



Chairman's News

Dear Friends,

I really had hoped that by now we would have been through the Covid Crisis and I would be sending out a programme for 2021. This is obviously not so but one thing that I can attach to this is the talk that Mike Rines was to give last March on *'The Fate of Arthur Ransome's Boat Nancy Blackett'*. It is fascinating. Mike rang me on Saturday morning to tell me that he had another talk all ready to go and we could have it live, on an email or by Zoom. I said we would let him know.

I am afraid at present I cannot publish any plans at all for 2021. We have obviously had to cancel the Day School for March and have decided not even to risk postponing it to October. By 2022 we should be up and running again for March when the topic will be *'Britain at War 1939-45'* and *'October Post War Britain 1945-65.'*

In view of this the Committee has decided not to charge subs for 2021. You had so little for your money last year and nothing is set for this year except our three newsletters in January, May and September.

At this point I need to tell you of my decision to step down as Chairman of the Friends, and resign from the Committee, from the end of this month. I had intended to do this at the AGM last March. Obviously, we were unable to hold it and we do not know when we will be able to call the next one. I have been doing things for the Museum since the Autumn, of 1981 which is almost 40 years. I have worn many hats and enjoyed doing all of the jobs these entailed. But the time has come to hand the baton on to new people. At the end of the Garden Party last September the committee gave Bob and me a beautiful rose called *The Ancient Mariner* and we are delighted with it. What an appropriately named rose for us. Thank you again and also thank you for the kind comments sent to me by post and email.

The New Committee is to be:

Acting Chair	Hazel Richards	383795
Treasurer	Louise Crich	388699
Secretary	Liz Wright	388787
Membership Secretary	Ashley Meyer	547048
Visits Organiser	Fiona Stewart	385014
Talks Organiser	Sadly no one has come forward to do this. If we do not get a volunteer there will be no more talks. It could be a shared job with Louise and there are helpers to assist setting up every month.	

Anne Merrett. Chairman of Friends. (385572) amerrett@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

News from the Museum

Hello from the Museum to all the Friends in this seemingly interminable lockdown. Despite the restrictions, we've made encouraging progress with the redesign. The displays are nearly ready, a new stewards' desk has been installed and extra stock has been ordered for the shop. We have installed an electronic sales system which is easy to operate.

It is impossible to say when we might be able to reopen but we are turning our minds to what needs to be done when we do. For those of you who have kindly volunteered to be stewards when the time is right, we are updating the Stewards' Handbook and making sure the right health and safety measures are in place. We so look forward to welcoming you back in due course for Stewards' Training and as visitors.

The Museum wants to express its tremendous gratitude to Anne Merrett for the sterling service she has given to the Friends over so many years. Her energy and expertise were awe-inspiring and it would take several people to replace her. We hope she will continue to enjoy the Museum and the activities of the Friends for a long time to come without any stressful extra responsibilities.

Caroline Matthews Vice Chair, Woodbridge Museum