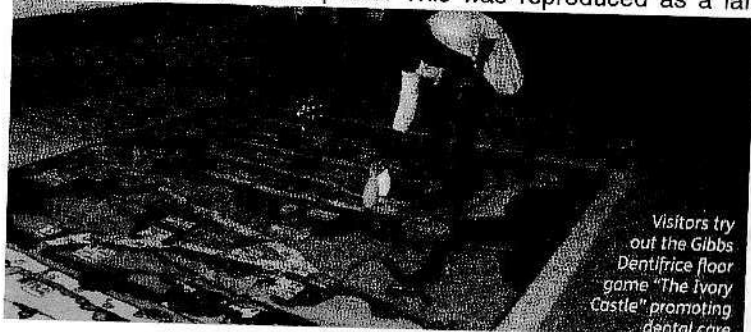


BAFM NEWS

British Association of Friends of the Museum

The Museums throughout the country are so varied that it would take a lifetime to visit them all. A weekend at Brading Roman Villa showing the various Gladiatorial events that used to take place was very popular, particularly showing all the tactics used in battle.

Salford museum had an exhibition of board and card games they had collected in the 1970's. Among them was the "Ivory Castle" game produced as a dental health promotion by Gibbs Toothpaste. This was reproduced as a large interactive floor

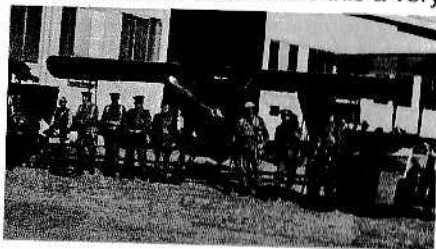


Visitors try out the Gibbs Dentifrice floor game "The Ivory Castle" promoting dental care.

game and enjoyed by young and old alike. Other games such as "Grandfathers Whiskers" and "Rush" were also reproduced as large scale playing cards.

The BAFM Annual Conference was held at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The fact that it was raining did not put off the enthusiastic attendees. The theme of the conference this year was Marketing. There were a number of speakers including one from the National Trust. The conference dinner and numerous visits made this a very useful meeting.

Closer to home, Brooklands Museum held their third annual "Great War 100" day commemorating the centenary of the 1st World War. This showed the part played by Brooklands during the war and particularly the rapid increase in aircraft production.



The editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments.
Please send them to Eric Morgan at 21 St Michaels GU3 3LY.

Telephone Number 01483 233344

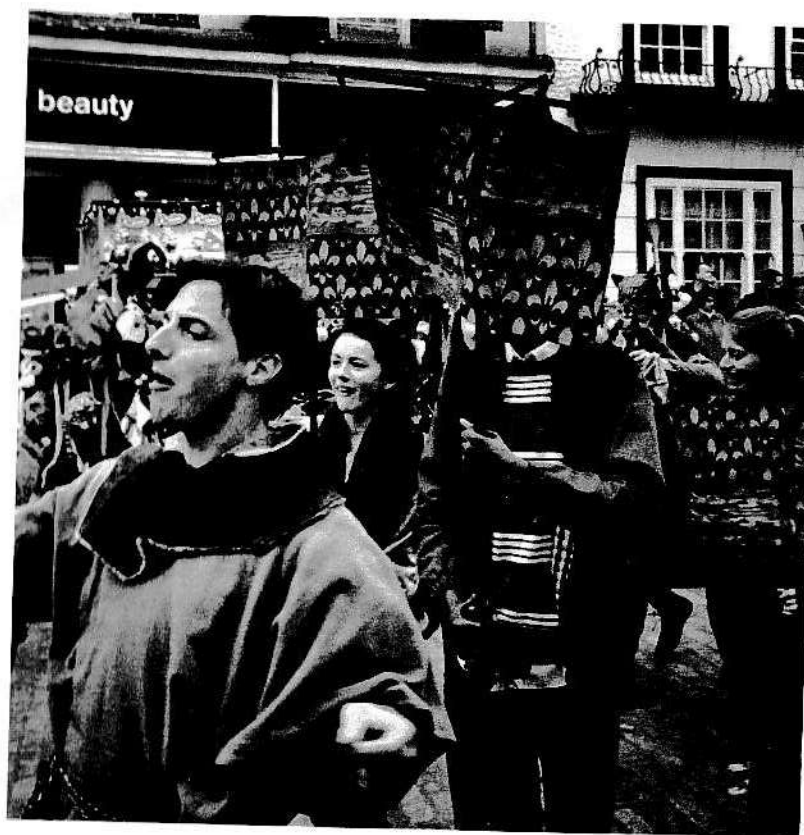
Friends web site <http://www.surreycommunity.info/fogm/>

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

March 2017



Issue 37



ALICE DAY -CHRISTMAS 2016

LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Friends wish to congratulate James Whiteman on his appointment as Managing Director. He is one who listens to all and we wish him well and look forward to continuing the good relations we have established with him.

The Museum Consultative Committee will not be reporting its findings until April. Members will already know that the Museum received a grant of £84,551 last year for a project "Your Stories, Your Museum". Lynn Szygenda told us more about the project at our last committee meeting and the following is a copy of the minutes of that meeting dealing with that item

"Your Stories, Your Museum

As envisaged in the Arts Fund grant, two consultants have recently been engaged:

- * Community engagement groups consultants - firm is called Lemon Drizzle
- * Interpretation consultants: firm is called Phillip Simpson
- * Communications consultants: appointment pending

The goal of using external consultants is to shift the culture of the museum to be more outward looking, in particular engaging with sections of the community who do not feature prominently in the museums normal visitors e.g. senior schools and young adults. Pilot activities will take place between now and the end of the year. Different ways of interpretation will be tested which could include poetry, drama etc. going beyond traditional written interpretation. The project is for 18 months, and the results will be evaluated in the first half of 2018.

This project compliments and runs parallel to Your Stories, Your Museum project.

Development of the museum

In due course, the Your stories and Development project will be integrated together in the feasibility study for the museum.

In the meantime, some additional space is now available. The railway display has finally been dismantled and various items of rolling stock etc. have been returned to the owners. The space will be used soon to hold the rotating Lewis Carroll exhibits generously loaned and curated by Mark Richards, former Chairman of the Lewis Carroll Society. This space is being called the Rabbit Hole for the moment. Later there are plans to display work by a contemporary artist whose work is inspired by archaeology .

The former Surrey Archaeology Society Library room is to be used as a Discovery Lounge. This will provide an informal meeting place, which might include books from the museum library, objects from the handling collection or from the "on-loan" boxes, which can be looked at and other resources."

MUSEUM FEATURED ON BARGAIN HUNT

By Catriona Wilson, Collections Officer (Heritage Services)

Guildford's heritage collections had a starring role in BBC's Bargain Hunt in 2016.

The Bargain Hunt production team contacted us to see if we would be able to bring some of the collection to be filmed at Ardingly in June last year. They were keen to show Lewis Carroll-related objects (I wasn't allowed to refer to him as Charles Dodgson in case it was too confusing!) and asked us to find a connection between Carroll and Ardingly. This was a little tricky but our Curatorial Assistant, Andrew Longworth, thankfully managed to find a few good links to Sussex that I was able to quote.

I selected a few star objects from the Lewis Carroll collections, including a zoetrope (a Victorian moving toy that, when spun, makes the image inside appear to be moving) that had belonged to the family and so would have been seen and probably even spun by the man himself. Apart from the zoetrope, and the magic lantern slides, all of the



objects I took along are currently on display in the museum. Hospitality Officer, Charles Robinson and I then drove down to Ardingly for filming and got to see behind the scenes of Bargain Hunt, meeting the competing teams and film crew. The cake selection in the green room was most impressive! The current Bargain Hunt format includes a short segment in the middle of the programme in which an antiques expert chats to a local collector or museum. In this case, the expert was Eric Knowles of Antiques

Roadshow fame, also known for his expertise in 19th and 20th century decorative arts. He was really great to work with – very friendly and down to earth. It was certainly a lot easier to film than the two Japanese breakfast TV programmes whose production companies visited for all things Carrollian earlier in 2016. Those interviews were in Japanese with a translator standing off-camera, so I spent most of the time smiling and trying desperately not to look too vacant.

I was very happy with how the footage was presented in the final Bargain Hunt programme, and very glad that we got to show some of our wonderful objects on national television. All in all, it was a great experience.

A TRIBUTE TO HON ALDERMAN ELIZABETH COBBETT.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Liz Cobbett.

When I first became a councillor on GBC in 1987 it was Liz who became my mentor. She was Chairman of the Arts & Recreation Committee and I found myself on that committee. Her priorities were my priorities and her interests my interests. She was also a delightful, kind, honest and hardworking lady. She cared about Guildford and how Guildford could provide for its residents.

She served the council and represented the Council on many outside bodies (9 altogether) with dedication and ability. But it was Guildford Museum and Tourism that drew us to work together. In my first months we had the opening of the new room at the museum and I clearly remember her showing me around and explaining what other improvements she hoped would follow. Liz had been instrumental in getting sponsorship from a local business. This was in 1988 - we have had to be very patient!

It was Liz whose idea it was to set up a group called "The Friends of Guildford Museum". This she did and chaired it through its initial years with enthusiasm. She was the GBC representative on the Area Museum Service for S E England. When Liz became Mayor she made sure that I took this position.

With Tourism also she showed her determination. The first TIC in Guildford, in the Undercroft, was opened as a result of Liz's hard work and persuasion. She explained the importance of Tourism and with David Watts realising the potential for Guildford we started out in a small way. Again I followed Liz as a director of The South East of England Tourist Board.

However I have realised that few people involved with Guildford now appreciate that it was Liz, as a result of her husband's involvement with the Glaziers Livery Company, who donated the stained glass window in the Guildhall depicting the Guildford Coat of Arms. This was her gift to GBC as she completed her Mayoral year and is behind the Mayor's chair on the raised platform.

Guildford owes much to the devotion of Liz and her ability to turn dreams into reality.

Jen Powell. Chairman.

OUR NEW ACCESS OFFICER

My name is Melanie Holliker and I started work as the access officer for Guildford Heritage Services at the end of May 2016. The post was initially part-time but is now full-time until February next year so if we haven't met yet hopefully there will be more time now. My remit is to make the service's sites accessible to as wide a range of people as possible including those with disabilities. As you can imagine there is lots to keep me busy! My background is working in museums including a number of other local authority ones. I most recently worked for Hastings Pier during their restoration project. I worked on the community engagement side of the project rather than the actual construction...although I did scrub a few barnacles off the pier's legs! Last summer I finished a course in working with visually impaired people and am very happy to be combining my experience from that with a return to museums.



At the end of last year I worked on a project at The Meadows, based at Shawfield Day Centre in Ash. This is a unit for people with mild to moderate Dementia. I visited the unit with objects from our handling collection. We did a number of reminiscence based sessions focusing on childhood toys and games, schooldays and food & cooking. I love doing these kind of sessions as I always learn something new when hearing people's memories. Reminiscence has been used successfully by museums for a number of years now but we also wanted to try something new. I followed a model developed by Tunbridge Wells Museum using 'mystery' objects. I

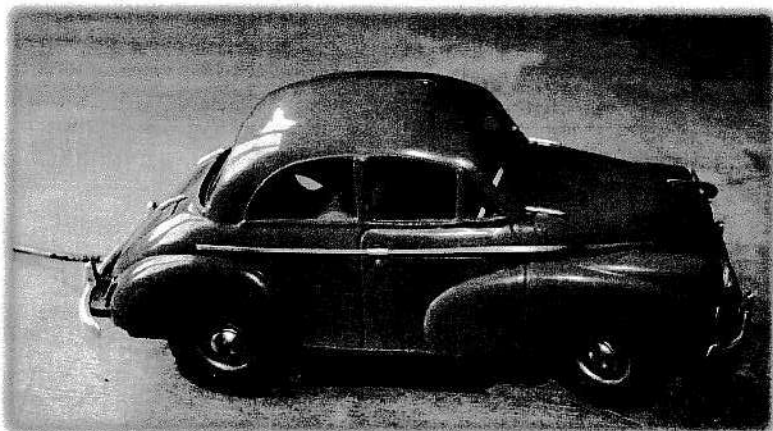


took along a variety of objects that weren't immediately identifiable. The aim was to arouse people's curiosity and create feelings of satisfaction or perhaps surprise when they discover what it is. These feelings are something that people with Dementia don't tend to lose even though their memory is failing. I took along the handle and legs from a pipkin (medieval cooking pot) similar to the one in the photo. It was great hearing the suggestions the clients made about what the object could be!

I am now involved with the Your Stories, Your Museum project where we will be developing further projects working with different sections of our community.

TWO NEW ACQUISITIONS

1959 model of a Morris Minor 1000 produced by Victory Industries of Guildford



This is a remote control model of a Morris Minor 1000 with its original box. The donor received it as a gift from his father, as a child in the late 1950s. The 1000 models were available in two colours red or blue and the cars were made from plastic using an injection-moulding machine. The box was designed to represent the packing crates that the real cars were shipped in.

Captain William Warren and Gerald Burgoyne founded Victory Industries Ltd in Hampton Wick, near London, in the Second World War, making electrical components for the Ministry of Supply. After the war, they needed a new direction and decided to move to a factory at Worplesdon Road, Slyfield, where they began making model vehicles. Their first model was a metal speedboat called 'Miss England' but they became famous for their battery-powered car 'The Mighty Midget Racer'.

The company is named after the former Victory Inn, an old coaching inn on the Hogsback. This inn was bought by Burgoyne, turned into a residential property and then sold to Warren. The name though, proved contentious. The word 'Victory' was registered to a jigsaw manufacturer who threatened legal action so Victory Industries began just using a V sign logo on its advertising to get round this issue.

The creation of the Morris Minor models was an important moment for Victory Industries. It was the first time they produced a model based on an actual make of car. It was also a rare occasion that a British car manufacturer agreed to part-fund

production. Nuffield, the owners of Morris Motors, believed that the models would be a good promotional tool. However, Victory miscalculated production costs. The project nearly bankrupted the business and most of the staff were made redundant. The company recovered but eventually folded in 1969. By the late 1960's children were turning to more technologically advanced toys and model cars declined in popularity.

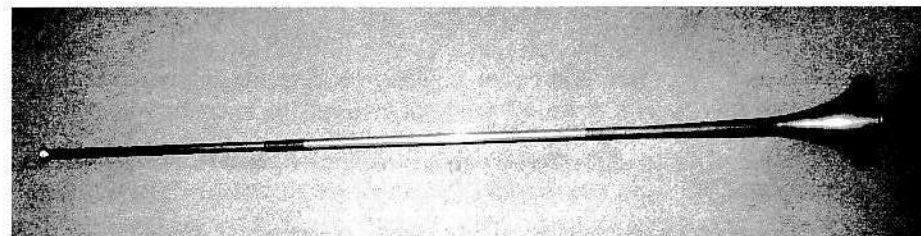
We have two other Victory Industry models in our collection. These are a Triumph TR2 sports car purchased by the Friends of Guildford Museum in 2000 and a model of a Vosper triple-screw express turbine yacht. An article on these appeared in Issue 10.

London to Guildford post horn- Circa 1785-1840s,

A member of the public recently donated this horn to the museum. He had purchased it at auction, with no provenance, but it is engraved 'LONDON TO GUILDFORD' and we believe it is a Georgian, or early Victorian, Royal Mail coach horn.

The British public postal service began in 1635, with the first London to Guildford service starting around the 1670s. A post boy on a pony delivered the mail but it was slow and dangerous. The first mail coach, running a much faster service, began in 1784. The London to Portsmouth service, passing through Guildford, started a year later.

Most mail coaches had a driver, a guard and space for up to four passengers. The guard was provided with a watch, two pistols, a blunderbuss and a horn. It was a dangerous business and the guns acted as a deterrent against highwaymen.



Mail coaches ran to a very strict schedule and fines were issued for late delivery of mail. To keep on time mail coaches were only permitted to stop at designated postal coaching inns, even if they had passengers. These were the inns where mail was dropped off and collected. In Guildford these were, The Angel and The Crown Inn. Food or refreshment breaks were not permitted.

Post horns were usually curved in shape but sometimes, straight ones, like our example, were issued. They served three functions, all to ensure the mail was delivered on time:

* To inform the coaching inn that they were arriving, so staff would be ready to deal with them.

* To warn slower traffic of their presence and to get out of the way (mail coaches travelled much faster than other coaches).

* To let the tollhouse keeper know they were coming and to let them through (mail coaches were exempt from paying the road tolls and a tollhouse keeper could be fined if he slowed them down).

In 1842, mail started to be sent by rail and the coach services ceased completely in 1849.

Andrew Longworth- Curatorial Assistant

These items are not on display

A spiffing tribute to the real-life Jeeves

This is bally good news, what ho. Damned deserved and all that. Might even be time to crack open the fizz or down a stiff G&T.

For the real-life cricketer who in-spired Jeeves, one half of the greatest comic duo in literary history, has had a tree planted in his honour. He was born in Guildford.

Percy Jeeves was playing in a county cricket match for Warwickshire. in August 1913 when P.G.Wodehouse "by chance" saw him play. The surname would stick in the writer's memory and he would go on to use it for the character of Bertie Wooster's brilliant valet who gets his charge out of all manner of scrapes.

The real Jeeves died 100 years ago in the Battle of the Somme, never knowing he had helped inspire the novels that would entertain generations to come

His tree was planted last week during the Cheltenham cricket festival at the Cheltenham College Ground where Wodehouse saw Jeeves play.

"We wouldn't have Jeeves the famous character unless we'd had Jeeves the cricketer," said Hilary Bruce, chairman of the PG Wodehouse Society. "Names were always important to Wodehouse and suddenly Jeeves floated into his mind and he thought 'that's it that is the name, that is the one I've been looking for'. Jeeves became world famous but sadly Percy would never know that because he was killed in the Somme. The life of the real Jeeves was cut short at the age of 28.. His name-sake, meanwhile, lives on.

By Robert Mendick-from the Daily Telegraph

XMAS HIJINX AT THE CASTLE

BUT THE MINCE PIES WEREN'T SO HOT!



Val Bale, Jen Powell and Marjorie Williams at the Friends Mince Pie stall

Over 2000 people came to the Xmas at the Castle event on the Sunday before Xmas. Many took an active part in the medieval revels, both adults and children. These activities commemorated the visit at Christmas time, in 1347, of King Edward III and Queen Philippa of Hainault. There was festive merriment with plenty of music, dancing and the Lord of Misrule adding fun and

spontaneity inside and outside the castle.

Starting on the High Street, the royal couple emerged from the Undercroft with a few musicians and followed by a large crowd of people who had been encouraged into carrying the colourful banners for the procession. Even the busy Xmas shoppers were distracted from their urgent errands!

In addition to the entertainment, the Castle was open to explore and there was childrens story telling and crafts. Outside, stalls with festive gifts and food and drink were gathered on the Castle mound and on Castle Green.

On our Friends stall, our display described the traditions and superstitions associated with mince pies. We ran a lucky dip offering the chance to win a packet of mince pies, plus for the adventurous foodies, we had some mince pies containing beef based on a Victorian recipe. With so many interesting things going on at the same time, the mince pies were not as enticing as we had hoped. It was nevertheless a fantastic day and congratulations to Lynn Szygenda and her colleagues for making the event such a success.

Nick Bale - December 2016

ANY LADIES FOR CRICKET?



The first recorded women's cricket match took place on Gosden Common, near Guildford in Surrey, as reported in *The Reading Mercury* on the 26th July 1745.

The paper described it as "the greatest cricket match that was played in this part of England ... between eleven maids of Bramley and eleven maids of Hambledon, all dressed in white.

"The Bramley maids had blue ribbons and the Hambledon maids red ribbons on their heads. The Bramley girls got 119 notches and the Hambledon girls 127. The girls bowled, batted, ran and cached as well as most men could do." High praise – albeit slightly grudging.

Women's cricket was particularly popular in Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey. Crowd trouble was not unknown, partly due to sporting rivalry and partly due to the large bets placed on games. One form of contest pitted single women against married counterparts, and prizes ranged from ladylike lace gloves to ladette-style barrels of ale!

Early cricket saw balls bowled underarm, and some claim it was actually a woman who introduced today's roundarm bowling action when, in the early 1800s, Christina Willes tried it to avoid becoming ensnared in her skirt. It is unlikely to be true since hoop skirts were out of fashion at the time. Roundarm bowling is thought to be a little earlier and attributed to Tom Walker in the 1790s.

GUILDFORD AND THE FORGOTTEN INVASION OF 1216

Five Kings, at least, have stayed at Guildford on numerous occasions yet the Castle rarely gets a mention in history books. Nevertheless the Castle has played its part in our Country's history and Gavin Morgan tells us about one of those moments here.

Last year marked the anniversary of a little known invasion of England by the French in 1216. In his book "Blood Cries Afar", Sean Mcglynn has told this story properly for the first time and it features several references to Guildford. I retell the story below and believe it would be a great promotional tool for the museum and castle

In 1940 Guildford children sat on Pewley Downs watching German bombers flying over on their way to London. These children would have been well aware that they were part of an epic struggle that would shape the future of their country. Perhaps they thought of similar struggles they had read about at school – the Spanish Armada or Alfred defeating the Vikings. There is one struggle, however, they would have probably not thought about.

In 1216 children playing on Pewley Downs (or the hills overlooking Guildford Castle) would have seen another invader. This time it came on horseback. Heavy horses carrying French knights and lighter horses pulling baggage trains would have passed across the Downs and descended into Guildford. As in 1940 these children would be spared the worst of the war that was about to unfold but were nevertheless at the centre of an epic struggle that would shape the future of their homeland.

This is the story of the forgotten invasion of 1216.

800 years ago dastardly King John, the villain of the Robin Hood stories, was on the throne of England. This was the man, who according to a local Guildford legend, chased a young woman into Silent Pool where she drowned. These tales maybe fictional but the image of John they portrayed was deserved. He took away lands and castles from barons, removed their inheritance and left people to die in dungeons. By 1215 the barons were in revolt and forced him to meet with them in London in January that year. It was the prelude to civil war and following that stormy meeting John retired to Guildford for a week before moving onto Winchester. During that week there must have been much activity at the Castle as John rethought his strategy. By June he had been forced to accept the terms of a peace treaty—Magna Carta.

Few expected John to obey the terms of Magna Carta and true to form John restarted the war. This time he had the upper hand and in a panic the barons invited Louis, the son of the French monarch to invade.

It was 150 years since William the Conqueror had invaded but this time there was to be no battle of Hastings. John was near the coast when Louis invaded in late May and he went into full retreat. The south east of England in medieval times was even more densely wooded than it is today and there were limited routes for an army to use. The North Downs was therefore an ideal highway. A few days after the invasion people of Guildford would have been aware that something was up as John passed through the town with his retinue of knights. Louis headed for London which was controlled by the barons. There he received a rapturous welcome. Twelve of the country's twenty bishops welcomed him as defender of the church. There was a procession to St Paul's where the Mayor of London greeted him. Louis swore an oath on the gospels and promised to be protector of the laws and rights of his new vassals. He behaved very much like the rightful king.

Louis did not stop long and on 6th June he led his army south whilst another went into Essex. He arrived in Reigate the following day where he found the castle abandoned. Then he moved to Guildford on 8th June which surrendered immediately. Farnham initially closed its gates but then it too surrendered as the French started to lay siege. It was not until Louis reached Winchester on 14th June that he met with any resistance. It fell after a ten day siege.

NOTE: The Chronicler of Waverley Abbey wrote: "Louis, the eldest son of the King of the French, came in summer to England and took the castle of Reigate, on... the 8th June and the morrow (Thursday) the castle of Guildford and the castle of Farnham the day after". Source: Lawrence – a Descriptive View of Guildford (1845) and quoted in E.R Chamberlin: Guildford – a Biography

Across the summer Louis strengthened his position and by July about a third of the country was under his control. He wrote to Alexander of Scotland who assisted by invading from the north whilst Louis's armies pursued John into the midlands. England was crumbling into Louis's hands and in October he probably could not believe his luck when John was suddenly taken ill and died.

For the second time in 150 years an army from France had successfully invaded England. Everything was going Louis's way and by now two thirds of the barons were on his side. His new enemy, John's successor, was a nine year old boy whose only protection was a very old knight, long passed retirement age. This knight had spent a life time manoeuvring his way to the top of the political establishment. There was very little incentive for him to risk his estates and the lives of his family on a hopeless cause.

But this knight was William the Marshall, the greatest knight of his age. He had fought alongside Henry II and ridden with Richard the Lionheart on crusade. He had a reputation for utmost loyalty. Having served three kings he chose to risk everything serving one more. The fight for England was on.

Louis returned to France to raise more money. Meanwhile Henry was crowned at Gloucester Cathedral. In a highly significant move Magna Carta was then reissued. It was a bold idea that transformed the young Henry from the son of an oppressor to the champion of baron's rights. It was this, and subsequent reissues of Magna Carta, that would turn it from a failed legal document into a symbol of English liberties. It worked, and some barons started to drift back. But there was still a French invader to defeat.

On 26th April 1217 the people of Guildford would have witnessed two armies on their doorstep. Louis returned from France and marched across the North Downs. At Guildford he paused and was joined by a second army from London. They then marched west. Many battles and sieges lay ahead but the tide started to turn. There are castles all over England which can tell the story of their involvement in the war of 1216/17. The first decisive defeat for Louis was at the battle of Lincoln. It was not a knockout blow. Louis still held London and organised a French fleet to bring reinforcements up the English coast.

On 16th August 1217 the people of Guildford once again woke to the news that an army was coming. This army had William the Marshall at its head and it was on its way to the coast. At the battle of Sandwich the French were decisively defeated in a gruesome sea battle. Louis was isolated, paid off and sent back to France. The boy, William the Marshall had protected was crowned Henry III in Westminster Abbey.

William the Marshall did not live long to enjoy his retirement. He died two years later and at his funeral in the Temple the Archbishop of Canterbury described him as the "greatest knight there ever was".

The significance of this story has possibly been overlooked by historians. Some suggest the barons would never have accepted Louis as king and regard this as a footnote in history. But Henry III's reign was to be an important one for English democracy. Had William the Marshall abandoned him, had Louis murdered the boy then the story of English democracy might have been very different. As for Guildford, it may well have played only a bit part in an epic story but it too would have been affected if Henry had not lived. He was a great builder and spent a lot of money on Guildford Castle, turning it into a small palace. He stayed here many times and it was here that his son, Prince Henry died. His wife founded the Friary in Guildford in memory of her son. Today Guildford Castle stands as a proud ruin but as we remember the 800th anniversary of the French invasion perhaps we will imagine it and appreciate it in new ways.

GUILDFORD ARTEFACTS FEATURE

in Turner Contemporary Exhibition

Two important historic objects travelled from their home at Guildford Museum to the Turner Contemporary, Margate to feature in an exciting exhibition last summer.

A late Neolithic flint disc knife and a wheel from a Wanborough Roman head-dress were on display at the prestigious gallery in the Seeing Round Corners exhibition. This is the first UK exhibition to explore how artists have responded to the circle, disc or sphere.

Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith, Lead Councillor for Internal Business Systems, Heritage and the Arts said: "We were pleased to work with Surrey Archaeological Society, the artists and Turner Contemporary to loan these two important items. Turner Contemporary attracts a high number of visitors and the loan enabled a wide audience to see these interesting historic artefacts from our local area."

The exhibition was curated by artists David Ward and Jonathan Parsons and showcased more than 100 items. It focused on works by historical and contemporary artists and featured paintings, drawings, sculpture, film, photography and performance in addition to historic artefacts.



David Bird of Surrey Archaeological Society added: "It is interesting to see that these ancient objects can not only attract an audience in a museum setting, but also have a role to play in a contemporary display. The loan of items to other museums and galleries enables more people to enjoy them and see the value of the collections held by Guildford Museum and our Society."

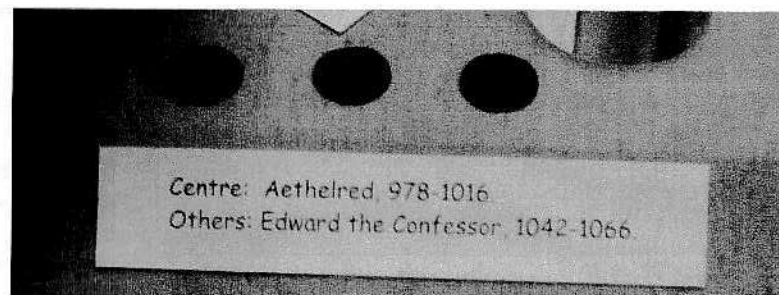
The flint disc knife is one of around 30 from our historic county. It was used for activities such as skinning animals. However, its elaborate design may indicate an element of prestige.

The wheel from a Wanborough head-dress is part of a nationally important collection of ritual objects from the site. The wheel motif is a sun symbol and these head-dresses appear to be unique survivals from Roman Britain, with no similar objects yet found anywhere else in the Empire. Surrey Archaeological Society led the excavations to rescue this and many other items from the Wanborough site.

SEEN IN THE MUSEUM

To the casual visitor it is easy to walk past some dirty pieces of metal about a centimetre or so across but when one finds they are a 1000 years old you begin to take notice. When one finds they were made in Guildford they become very exciting. For these are pennies some dating before William the Conqueror.

It is thought that Offa, King of Mercia introduced the silver penny in about 775/780A.D. The coins bear the name of the moneyer, the man responsible for the manufacture, and the name of the King but not a portrait. It was not until King Edgar in 973 that a uniform currency, controlled by central government was introduced and a royal portrait became a regular feature.



Most fortified towns of burghal status, like Guildford, were allowed a mint and within a few years 70 mints were active in the country. Guildford mint is thought to have been active between the reigns of Edward the Martyr (whose bones, incidentally, reside in the Russian Orthodox Chapel in Brookwood Cemetery) and William II.

In 1998 the Friends purchased a coin of William I. This came up for auction in North America. On the front is a portrait of the King or rather a drawing that could be reproduced by the mint with their simple equipment. On either side of the head are two sceptres. The Kings name is inscribed around the edge. In addition to giving us the name of the town the inscription tells us that the moneyer was SERIC.

In the past fifty years we have seen the demise of the farthing and the halfpenny and it is unlikely that the penny will last many more years. You may, however, be surprised to know that there are currently five different pennies in circulation. So turn out your pocket and purses next time children are around and see what you can find. From its introduction in 1971 the coin was made in bronze and marked "NEW PENNY" but in 1982 this was changed to "ONE PENNY". A new portrait of the Queen was introduced in 1989 and copper plated steel coins used from 1992. The portrait was changed again in 1998 and in 2008 the design for the reverse was changed. Finally the portrait was changed again in 2015.