



BLANDFORD
TOWN MUSEUM

Blandford Forum Museum,
Heritage and Arts Trust
AGM

21 July 2024

Report to Blandford Town Museum Members for the year 2023

2023 (January through June): Report on Activities

We closed for 3 weeks in January and opened in February.

119 *school children visited the museum in the first 6 months of 2023.*

January: We were closed most of January for exhibition work. Behind-the-scenes volunteers worked throughout the month. Meetings were held with North Dorset Museum Association, South West Museums Development and Dorset Museums Association. Trustee and other meetings were carried out by ZOOM. The Archaeology Group continued to meet, and talks were held. The Garden Group also continued preparing the garden. We also welcomed the Mayor's Civic Group to the museum for a tour and cake and coffee.

February: Our newly formed Environmental Group had its first meeting, with 12 attending. Archaeology Talks continued.

March: There were two museum lectures and one archaeology talk. We held a potable Antiquities Finds Day. We started monthly coffee mornings.

April: Talks continued as well as Museum Garden activities.

May: Guided Town Centre Heritage and Perimeter Walks started. We also added Clean Up Blandford Campaign and Blandford War on Waste to our activities as they joined the museum and meet along with the Environmental Group. We participated in the Big Help Out and held a Coronation event. The Museum AGM was held at the end of May.

June: from 10 June to 18 June, we participated in the Great Big Green Week. We held a Green Fair at the Arches and talks on the oceans, green economy, and ways to improve the sustainability of our homes. There were Litter Pick-ups and a Town Perimeter Walk. We participated in Blandford Hidden Gardens, helping with advertising/selling tickets/ showing the museum garden. We held a Last Friday in the Garden at the end of the month.

During all these months, projects on the River Stour/Medieval Tapestry/1831 Riots/ and other projects have continued behind the scenes.

2023 (July through December): Report on Activities

45 children came to school visits were held at the museum in this period, which includes summer holidays.

July: Meetings were held with North Dorset Museum Association, South West Museums Development and Dorset Museums Association. These meetings continue through the year. The Archaeology Group continued to meet and talks were held. The Last Friday in the Garden Dinner was Mediterranean themed. . Coffee Mornings that started in May, continued. Chris Stringer gave a talk in July that was well attended. Clean Up Blandford and Civic Walks continued. Family Archaeology Day was combined with the Portable Antiquities Finds day. Work continued on both Tapestry and 1831 Riots projects.

August: Continued as in July. The Last Friday Garden Dinners – Spanish food was the theme for August. Worked with the Mayor on his charity events: Jamie Jigsaw, Skatefest 2023

September: Continued as in August. Archaeology talk was held on The late hunter gatherers of the Upper Kennet Valley. Two Special Heritage Week (DAHW) walks were held. Clean Up Blandford was held. The Last Friday Dinner was Greek themed. Held the Unity Fest. Worked with the Mayor on his charity events: Civic Lunch, Wessex Folk Concert

October: Archaeology Group Lecture: Pot Dealers: the distribution of Verwood-type pottery and a museum talk : Medieval Women and how to Find Them. Mayor Events: Showcase of Talent

November: Archaeology Group Lecture: Bringing the Past to Life and a museum Friday talk: The Trafalgar Way. We held a Portable Antiquities Scheme Archaeological Finds Day and participated in the Blandford Yuletide Festival, which brought in over 200 visitors to the museum. Mayor Events: Salts Folk Concert

December: Sustainability Forum meets. Mayor Events: Craft Fair, Christmas Concert

During all these months, projects on the River Stour/Medieval Tapestry/1831 Riots/ and other projects have continued behind the scenes.

2024: Activity Plans

Our working group has set out a full plan of Museum Activities for the coming year. The calendar develops throughout the year and can be found at <https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/calendar/>

- We are continuing the Last Friday events in the warm months in the Museum Garden. They are held from May through September. Our new winter talks are also continuing, with talks scheduled for January, February. March and April.
- Our very successful coffee mornings are continuing— in the garden or museum as weather permits —starting in March.
- Archaeology Group talks and Garden Group events are continuing.
- Civic Group continues its walks and will be holding some talks as well.
- Newly formed Museum Sustainability Forum will continue meetings and is holding environmental talks and events. The Green Fair at the Arches has become an annual event and will be held 13 July 2024.
- Archaeology “Finds” Identification mornings are continuing and we are occasionally combining these with children’s activities.
- We are looking at holding Volunteer Coffee Mornings as stand alone events and/or with other museum events (art exhibitions. Etc)
- Grants have been applied for to improve access for the vision impaired (NHLF), Highlight Georgian scientist Richard Pulteney (Royal Society), and start a 3D photographic Group in partnership with the BFTC and Fashion Museum (DC project grant).
- Stour Valley History projects will continue, with big strides being made on the tapestry work. A Grant is being applied for to allow the exhibit to be easily transported and shown in local villages and Blandford venues (Arts Council)
- Working with students will continue, both through the DofE award scheme, Somerset Work Experience Partnership, and local school Work Experience students in the spring.
- Partnership with Blandford Environmental Trust will continue.
- School group visits have increased, and we want to boost this even more.

GRANTS IN PROCESS:

DC Organisational Revenue Grant **RECEIVED £30k OVER 3 YEARS (2023 through 2027)**

DC Project Grant for 3D Photography **RECEIVED £2800**

NHLF: QR code grant **RECEIVED £25,020**

Marc Fitch Fund grant **RECEIVED £800**

EDUCATION:

We have had 5 upper school students do their work experience with the museum. We have also had a Duke of Edinburgh Award student this year who finished the “volunteering” part of her award with us.

We have students from several upper schools and from local private schools. We also have about 3-4 University students working with us every summer.

Anyone interested in working with young people please let our Director know.

Visitor Numbers

	Jan to June 2022	July to Dec 2022	Jan to June 2023	July to Dec 2023
events	1237	895	1374	1154
visitors to museum	1001	1803	1562	2522
Total for events + museum visitors	2238	2698	2936	3676
Yearly Total		4936		6612

Volunteers:
These hours are often estimates
and are almost certainly UNDER
estimates.

Thank you to all our volunteer
family!!

2023 sum of volunteer hours for events	
Director's hours	1,000
sum of volunteer hours for events (as above)	1,282
Front of House Volunteer hours	2,232
Back of House Volunteers	2,000
projects	796
Treasurer	104
Volunteer coordinator	250
Webmaster	100
Total volunteer hours (based on estimates)	7764

Blandford Museum Coffee Mornings in the Victorian Garden

2nd Saturday of each month
10am to noon

Coffee/Tea/Cakes
Plants for sale

Blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

Everyone Welcome!

28 July
6:30 to 8:30 at Blandford Museum Garden

LAST FRIDAY in the GARDEN

For more information go to blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



Monday, May 8
11am to 3pm

The Big Help Out is part of the Coronation Celebrations

- Bring your Coronation objects for us to photograph
- Homemade Cakes and Savoury Snacks
- Hot and Cold Drinks
- Bric-a-Brac stall
- A chance to see behind the scenes at the Museum

If you have been thinking about volunteering, come along see what we can do together!



<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk>

BLANDFORD'S HIDDEN GARDENS

Visit some hidden gardens in our unique Georgian town

SUNDAY 25th JUNE 2023 11am – 5pm
£5 for all gardens

Tickets available two weeks before the event from the
**BLANDFORD INFORMATION CENTRE &
BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM**

Organised by
Blandford Environmental Trust

Sponsored by
Colten Care

Contact: anguswoodhiddengardens@gmail.com to enter your garden
All monies raised go to charities & good causes.

Blandford Town Museum

New Ideas on Recent Human Evolution

Friday 7th July, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Blandford Parish Centre
The Tabernacle, DT11 7DW

Drinks and light refreshments
will be available to purchase
from 7 pm and the talk will
start at 7:30.

Admission is £5 for museum
members, £8 for non-members.



Chris
Stringer

For information:
blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

Chris Stringer is a Research Leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum. Many of the supposed certainties of later Pleistocene human evolution have been swept away in the last decade or so. In this talk Chris will look at some of the outstanding questions in research about our origins, including the evolution and relationships of Neanderthals, Denisovans and our species Homo sapiens, and how we came to be the only humans left on Earth. Chris' early research was on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe, but he now collaborates with palaeontologists, archaeologists, Earth scientists and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally.

BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Bere's Yard, DT11 7HQ, opposite the Parish Church

Events

Friday 7th July, 7-9pm
Blandford Parish Centre.
New Ideas on Human Evolution.
Chris Stringer, London Natural History Museum.
Museum members £5, Visitors £8.

Sunday 2nd July, 11am: Guided Geology Walk, from Scrivens in the Market Place.
Saturday 8th July, 10-12: Coffee Morning. Join us in the museum garden, all welcome.
Sunday 9th July, 11am: Guided Heritage Walk from Morrisons car park.
Saturday 22nd July, 10-5: Festival of Archaeology for the family at the museum.
Saturday 22nd July, 10am: Clean up Blandford, Litter Pick meet at the Blue Bridge.
Sunday 23rd July, 11am: Guided Town Perimeter Walk from Scrivens in Market Place.
Thursday 27th July, 10-1: Portable Antiquities Scheme. Bring your finds to the museum.
Friday 28th July, 6.30-8.30pm: Food and drink in the museum garden. Come and join us!

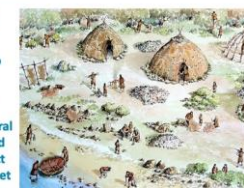
For full up-to-date details please check www.blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>
Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7.30pm
The Parish Centre in the Tabernacle DT11 7DW
Entrance: £3 (museum members no charge)

Artificial Intelligence: Finding the Neolithic of Dorset
Speaker: Alex Hordridge from Geotech Research

The Neolithic in Dorset shaped the landscape in very visible ways, but much of the evidence outside monumental archaeology has yet to be discovered. With changes in planning laws, it is necessary to protect archaeology by predicting sites and better managing the cultural resources of Britain. We investigated using Artificial Intelligence to predict undiscovered Neolithic sites in Dorset to help solve this issue



*The Green Fair
at the Arches*
**Sunday, 11 June
2023,**

12noon to 5pm
Blandford Railway
Arches,
Langton Meadows in
Blandford Forum
FREE ENTRY

*The site is next to the
Langton Road Car Park
behind M&S, so plenty
of parking will be
available!*



Exhibitors include nature and wildlife charities, local charities such as Blandford Environmental Trust, producers of vegetarian and vegan food, cosmetics and gifts, refilling businesses and other eco friendly products, as well as activities for children and information from a number of organisations tackling climate change.

A History of the River Stour from Fiddleford to Shapwick

— preliminary to the Environment day

Friday, 28 April
Doors open 7pm
Talk starts at 7:30
Refreshments available

BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Blandford Forum, Parish Centre, The Plocks, Blandford, DT11 7DW

This talk by Jay Reynolds, will explore why and how Blandford and the surrounding communities along the River Stour, developed through different historical periods. She will look at the way in which the river influenced and how it influenced the patterns of life over the ages, from Neolithic times to the modern day.

Museum Members £5
Non-Members £8

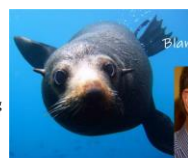
For more details go to blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>
Thursday 21st April 2023 at 7.30pm
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The Experimental Health Project: Crafting a Better Wellbeing
Speaker: Megan Russell, Mental Health First Aider
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, Bournemouth University

Our society has never been so connected yet so isolated. Researchers have previously demonstrated that archaeology-based community projects can act as facilitators to improve wellbeing and connection within specific community groups. The Experimental Health Project aims to build on this knowledge and investigate how engaging in experimental archaeology and ancient crafts can provide positive wellbeing for a connected community. The project is in development currently and I am beginning to recruit volunteers. If you are interested, please get in touch after the talk!



As part of THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK, running from 10 – 17 June, this is an invitation to an open talk on the state of our seas and how we can restore and protect them.



Blandford Town Museum
Blandford Museum Environmental Group
15th June 2023 7pm

An admirer of Greenpeace's bravery and passion, and supporter since 1971, Daisy Skinner studied Marine Biology and worked in Human Genetics research at Queen Mary University before working in the pharmaceutical and medical industries and as Managing Director with 4 companies. A beekeeper for many years, works with local Greenpeace groups, and activist. Co-founder of Planet Turkey.

What's happening in our sea from the top to the bottom of the food chain?
Greenpeace defending our seas
Current Major Concerns
Solutions: What can we do to help?

Moving Forward: 2023 Events

<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/calendar>

BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP ANNUAL QUIZ

Question Master: Julian Richards

Saturday 4th February 2023
The Parish Rooms, The Plocks,
Blandford Forum, DT11 7DW
6:45pm for a 7pm start of quiz. Dinner at 8pm

Cost £10 (cash on the door) includes fish & chip supper
BYOB

Light refreshments of tea & coffee available and raffle (cash only)

Teams of 6 - book your place or book a whole table with
Gerald Killingworth
gkillingwrth@aol.com

<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>





BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Bere's Yard, DT11 7HQ, opposite the Parish Church

Events

Friday 7th July, 7-9pm
Blandford Parish Centre.
New Ideas on Human Evolution.
Chris Stringer, London Natural History Museum.
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For full up-to-date details please check www.blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Blandford Museum Coffee Mornings in the Victorian Garden

2nd Saturday of each month
10am to noon

Coffee/Tea/Cakes
Plants for sale

Blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Friday Talk on 20th October 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Blandford Parish Centre, The Tabernacle, DT11 7DW

Medieval women and how to find them
A talk by Cindy Wood

Cindy Wood is a Senior Lecturer in the School of History and Archaeology at the University of Winchester.

She specialises in the social history of the Late Medieval Period, including religion, the parish church system, the impact of the Black Death, and society using both documentary and physical sources.

The Stour Valley Sampler. A group of Museum members have been working on a Stour Valley "Sampler". This is a large-scale embroidery, inspired by the Dunston Tapestry, which explores the role of Medieval women set against the background of the River Stour and local settlements, as they were in the Middle Ages. The sampler will also be shown on the evening.



BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>

Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30pm
The Parish Centre in the Tabernacle DT11 7DW
Entrance: £3 (museum members no charge)

The late hunter gatherers of the Upper Kennet Valley
Speaker: Abigail George, University of Southampton

The Upper Kennet Valley (from Avebury to Hungerford) is well known for its Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology including monuments included in the Avebury World Heritage Site. But who were the pioneering Mesolithic people who lived there before the monuments were built?

The Mesolithic spanned some 5,500 years (roughly 9,600 – 4,000 BC) during which great change in climate, resources (flora and fauna) and technology took place. Although there is wealth of well recorded Mesolithic sites in the Lower Kennet Valley, the evidence terminates where research ended at Hungerford. The limited data for the Mesolithic period to the west of Hungerford may well be simply that no-one has looked.

This talk will give an overview of the British Mesolithic period and explain the aims and strategies for learning more about the Mesolithic in the Upper Kennet Valley.



BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>

Thursday 16th October 2023 at 7.30pm
The Parish Centre in the Tabernacle DT11 7DW
Entrance: £3 (museum members no charge)

Bringing the past to life
Speaker: Julian Richards: Archaeologist, TV presenter, Educator & Author

Julian Richards is an archaeologist who has spent his working life unearthing clues about how our ancestors lived, ate, built, fought, farmed and changed the landscapes they lived in. Because archaeology is not about 'things' the pottery, stone tools and bones that we dig up, it's about how we use these clues to bring the past to life.

In this talk, based on over 50 years of experience, Julian will show how these clues, and the amazing science that explores the evidence they contain, have thrown new light on the lives of our ancient ancestors. And beyond this, how imagination is still needed to truly bring the past to life.

Julian will be bringing along a selection of his books for sale. All profits from book sales will go to the Salisbury Sudan medical Link.





BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM



CHAIR YOGA CLASSES starts Monday 4 September

What is Chair Yoga and the benefits it offers?

Focusing on your movement, your breathing, and how your body is reacting to the exercise creates a kind of moving meditation that promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and improves mental clarity. Like other forms of exercise, seated yoga may also help improve mood, your confidence and relieve anxiety and depression.

Using your chair for seated poses or balancing poses, you can take advantage of the many benefits yoga provides, such as increased circulation, feelings of well-being, and decreases in blood pressure, anxiety, inflammation, and chronic pain.

Despite any limitations you may have, chair yoga can help you feel stronger, along with many other benefits. Including:

- Improved flexibility and strength
- Increased interoceptive and proprioceptive awareness (balance)
- Reduced pain
- Elicits the relaxation response
- Reduced stress and anxiety

Classes will be held at the Museum or in the Museum Garden on Monday at 4.30pm for 45 minutes. Cost is £7.



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Art at the Museum

Exhibition: Robin Moorcroft



Robin uses a range of printing techniques to create striking images of plants and flowers.

Framed art and cards for sale.

Tues, Thurs, Fri and Sat, 10am – 4pm
9th August – 30 September 2023

Blandford Town Museum
Bere's Yard, Market Place, Blandford Forum
www.blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM



28 July 6:30 to 8:30 at Blandford Museum Garden
LAST FRIDAY in the GARDEN

For more information go to blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

BLANDFORD MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/events>

Thursday 19th October 2023 at 7.30pm
The Parish Centre in the Tabernacle DT11 7DW
Entrance: £3 (museum members no charge)

Pot dealers: the distribution of Verwood type pottery
Speaker: Dan Carter, Bournemouth University

Dan reveals in this fascinating lecture his research for his PhD at Bournemouth University about his investigation into Verwood pottery. He has explored the distribution and trade of Verwood-type pottery through time using archaeology, historical documents, and material science to build a picture of this local industry from the earliest production through to its heyday and subsequent decline.





Some of the 2023 Summer, Autumn and Winter Events at Blandford Town Museum



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

New Ideas on Recent Human Evolution

Friday 7th July, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Blandford Parish Centre
The Tabernacle, DT11 7DW

Drinks and light refreshments will be available to purchase from 7 pm and the talk will start at 7:30.

Admission is £5 for museum members, £8 for non-members.

For more information: blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk





BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Friday Talk Series
24th November, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Blandford Parish Centre, The Tabernacle, DT11 7DW

Admission to the talk is £5 for museum members, £8 for non-members. Drinks and light refreshments will be available from 7 pm, and the talk will start at 7:30.

Ms Kathy Brown from The Trafalgar Way and the 1805 Club will be speaking on the Trafalgar Way, the historic route that passes through Blandford and was used to carry dispatches with the news of the Battle of Trafalgar overland from Falmouth to the Admiralty in London.

She will tell the story of how Lt. John Lapenotiere of His Majesty's Schooner Pickle carried Admiral Collingwood's dispatches about a great victory and the lamented loss of Lord Nelson along 271 miles from Falmouth to London, traversing East Devon in the early hours of 5th November 1805.





BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Dorset Museum appeal to acquire the Charlton Marshall Hoard
Information evening at Blandford Town Museum
Monday 4 December, 5-6pm

Join Dr Clare Randall (archaeological advisor) and Liz Selby (Director of Collections and Public Engagement) from Dorset Museum & Art Gallery at Blandford Town Museum on Monday to hear about an exciting appeal to raise the funds to acquire a significant and rare hoard of Iron Age gold coins which were found by a metal detector in Charlton Marshall in 2020.



Dating to the 2nd century AD, the hoard is incredibly unusual, as the coins were imported from France. They were made by a Gaulish tribe called the Balocasses and only a very few similar finds are known from Dorset and the south coast.

For more information about this appeal: CharltonMarshallGoldStaterHoardAppeal-DorsetMuseum
For more information about this event: BlandfordTownMuseum-CaringforthepastInformingthefutureinDorset



BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

Blandford Museum will be open from 6 to 9pm

BLANDFORD YULETIDE FESTIVAL
FRIDAY, 1 DEC 2023

Music/ Christmas decorations/ Hot Drinks/Biscuits/ Mince Pies / Savouries / Cake



For more information about this event : blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

This talk follows nicely on from the Mayor's Charity Concert at the Corn Exchange on Sunday 5th November, when folk group The Salts are performing as part of their Trafalgar Way tour.

The Ukrainian craft fair

ЄДИНІСТЬ Fest
UnityFest



LOOKING FOR STALLHOLDERS

Saturday 2nd September
10am – 4pm

Blandford town museum garden

Pitch £20

All proceed money from tables will go to support Ukrainian charity organisation

For more details send email to theweyua@gmail.com