



**The Friends of the Salford Museums' Association**

(Registered Charity No. 1057371)

**Visit our Website at: [www.friendsofsalfordmuseums.org](http://www.friendsofsalfordmuseums.org)**

February 2016

Editor: Philip Heyes

**Welcome to the Friends' February Newsletter. Here are some forthcoming Events for your diary.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue and Time</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Gallery Talk on David Bomberg Painting "Storm Clouds" (not normally on public view)	7p.m. – 8 p.m. at Salford Museum, Peel Park. NOTE Admission charge: £2 but no need to book.
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Friends' Annual Meeting and Talk by Dr Mike Nevell, Head of Archaeology at Salford University on recent archaeology work by team in Salford (New Bailey Prison, Exchange Station to name two).</b>	<b>Salford Museum &amp; Art Gallery Peel Park 6 p.m.</b>
2 April to 13 November	<b>Gifts, Grants and Games: Celebrating 60 years of the Friends – New Exhibition</b>	<b>Salford Museum &amp; Art Gallery Peel Park</b>

**CONTACT US**

**Members of FSMA – this is YOUR Newsletter – would you like to contribute to – or comment – on it?**

Please contact: Philip Heyes: tel 01539 725658 or e mail (preferred): [Jphiliphey@com](mailto:Jphiliphey@com) or Don Rainger on **0161 789 2071** Copy for the June 2016 Newsletter to P. Heyes (e mail as above) **by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. Alternatively please write to the Secretary, F.S.M.A., Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, SALFORD M5 4WU We want your comments and suggestions.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?**

**If you have renewed your subscription to the Friends, thank you most sincerely! We aim to offer a full and varied programme in 2016. THOSE STILL TO RENEW – Please do so as soon as possible, using the form at the end of this Newsletter.**

**PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE**

**THAT DOG...**

There really WAS a dog on the pitch!

For members of FSMA thinking I have finally lost my senses, allow me to explain. A ten-second clip of me leaning on a barrier and saying "There's a dog on the pitch" appeared on a BBC TV programme about Salford City FC on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It was a small section of around twenty minutes of interviews I had done the previous autumn. All but that reference to the dog ended on the cutting room floor, but I had my ten seconds of "fame". I have lost count of the

number of people, though, who have stopped me in the street, spoken to me on a bus or mentioned it in shops. Many have not been football supporters, but wanted to know about me and my interests. And it was here that I had my entree into other worlds, including FSMA. I'm not claiming that membership has surged since my appearance, but at least I have been able to talk to many people who would otherwise not have been on my radar.

## **CHRISTMAS WITH THE FRIENDS ... FUN AND GAMES**

On a small scale, the Friends' Christmas party enabled two dozen of us to come to know each other better, if only for a couple of hours. After a tasty meal in the SMAG cafe, we adjourned upstairs and engaged in board games and lots of banter.

Years ago, a Friend donated a selection of games to the Museum's collection. Games will be one of the themes in the Exhibition to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary that opens in April (further details will be given nearer the time). The Christmas party, though, and the increasing number of Friends attending our outings, is lighting the spark that is vital for the healthy continuation of such an organisation. We were pleased that Amy Goodwin (Exhibitions Officer) and Peter Ogilvie (Collections) were able to join us for a while to talk about the exhibition.

## **WHAT YOUR COMMITTEE HAS BEEN UP TO**

The committee has been busy over the past few months. The full committee has met on three occasions and sub-groups have met to discuss the exhibition, the progress of the World War One project, LifeTimes Link and finance.

**Membership** continues to increase. Most members have renewed their subscriptions, but if you have not done so, please send your cheque and form in soon. Every £10 sub helps. Just as we have a number of new members, so we have new staff at SMAG. I have been pleased to do a couple of talks to cafe and front of house staff telling them about the Friends. They are then in a better position to discuss FSMA with visitors.

We have been pleased to hear of the success of the **staging** we bought last autumn. It is used mainly at Ordsall Hall and I saw it first at the Ghost Stories performance in December. I believe it is also being used at weddings, which was a purpose not originally envisaged.

As last year, we have been happy to **help with bursaries** to a small number of students taking courses and exams for Royal Horticultural Society qualifications; Salford being one of the few centres in the country licensed to teach and examine for this prestigious organisation.

In the Local History Library, four map hangers, paid for by the FSMA, are now in place and being made good use of.

The scope of the work undertaken at our museums continues to expand. The re-vamped schools programme is booked well ahead. The volunteers are out in the gardens and allotments at Ordsall Hall, and now there are links with the Dermatology Department at Hope Hospital.

We were pleased once again to enhance the atmosphere at SMAG during the Christmas activities by contributing to the hiring of the Monton Voices choir; a goodly number of visitors enjoyed their performance in the Victorian Gallery. The autumn edition of LifeTimes Link

received positive comments and work on the spring copy is underway. Philip is stepping down as my co-editor. He and I are discussing the magazine's future with SCL staff. We do need more sales, both on subscriptions and over the counter, so please see what you can do.

Our visit to the **Museum of Transport** at Cheetham Hill attracted sixteen friends and proved an interesting and nostalgic occasion. It is encouraging to see that numbers are building on these visits. An article about our visit appears in this issue – Ed.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS**

The new **Events leaflet** is now available, but let me give you one date to put an asterisk against in your diary; it was discussed at the World War One project meeting recently. It is **Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** July, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Events beginning with a service at Sacred Trinity Church Salford early in the day will lead up to a concert, to be recorded by the BBC, at the Maxwell Hall at the University of Salford in the evening. Also on 1<sup>st</sup> July, there will be the National Service of Remembrance at Manchester Cathedral.

Finally, please make an effort to attend **our AGM**, which takes place at 6.00pm at SMAG on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We have a real treat after the business meeting. Our guest speaker is **Dr Mike Nevell**, Head of the Department of Archaeology at Salford University. He will give a presentation on the finds made at various digs in the city during the last couple of years. This is an evening not to be missed. Hope to see you there.

Oh, sorry – no dogs allowed!

Best wishes  
Don Rainger  
**(Reigning snakes and ladders champion, FSMA)**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **FRIENDS OF THE SALFORD MUSEUMS' ASSOCIATION**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2016**

Notice of this year's Friends' AGM is on page 8 of this bulletin.

Note that the post of CHAIRMAN is vacant at the present time.

There are also vacancies for up to TWO Committee Members.

The Agenda is also at Page 8 and the Nomination Forms are on Page 9.

Following the business of the AGM our guest speaker will be **Dr Mike Nevell**, Head of Archeology at Salford University.

Dr Nevell and his team have been involved in a recent archaeological dig at the site of the old New Bailey Prison in Salford (near Salford Central Station). You can read about this in the current (Winter) issue of **LifeTimes Link** magazine, copies available at the Museum and Ordsall Hall.

## SALFORD'S BATTLE OF THE SOMME CENTENARY MEMORIAL DAY– 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2016

The main national service for the commemoration of this Battle will take place in Manchester Cathedral on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

However, the opening day of this Battle was to bring shock and sadness to very many homes in Salford, with the loss of almost 1,000 men from three battalions of the “Salford Pals” volunteers on this day alone.

The outline of the events in Salford planned for the Centenary Day itself, briefly mentioned in Don's “preamble”– is as follows, although exact times are still to be confirmed.

**07.30 – 08.30** a service at Sacred Trinity (Chapel St.) the parish church of the Salford Pals (Reverend Andy Salmon – Sacred Trinity).

**12:00 – 13:00** Lunchtime concert at Peel Hall, featuring Salford schoolchildren from Swinton High School; St. Ambrose High; Moorside High School and ensembles from MAPAS and performances of original compositions and arrangements to mark the occasion.

**14:00 – 14:45 & 16:00 – 16:45** two repeat concerts by the **Honour Choir** in the amphitheatre of the University of Salford's New Adelphi Building (hoping to attract local primary schools to the second one).

**19:30-21:00** evening concert featuring the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, recorded for BBC Radio 3 broadcast. The first half of the concert will feature works by UK composers that served on the Somme: **George Butterworth** (died on the Somme in August 1916); **Cecil Coles** (died on the Somme in 1918) and **Ivor Gurney** (who was shot and gassed on the Somme). The second half of the concert will feature the world premiere performance of Stephen Davismoon's **God's Own Caught in No Man's Land** specially composed for the occasion – as a work it will act as an aural memorial to the fallen of the Somme and in particular the Salford Pals; setting many narratives from those that served with the Salford Pals as well as the poetry of the Salfordian Winifred Letts

Please look out for further details of these events, in particular for details of the precise timings.

## Recent Events and Visits

### The Friends visit The Whitworth October 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 by Monica Wright

I have fond memories of the Whitworth as it was there, many years ago when I was a student, that I shared a bench in the park with L S Lowry. We chatted briefly about the book I was reading and he kindly offered to sign it for me. I always wanted to go back yet somehow never did. But now that the Whitworth had just been awarded the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year 2015, it seemed the ideal time to arrange a visit for the Friends.

It's the largest arts prize award in Britain and the biggest museum prize in the world, so deserved for a museum founded in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for the “perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester”.

The Whitworth's founders visited the best museums and galleries in Europe, and by the time the first building was completed in 1908, it had already assembled two of the world's great collections: British watercolours and drawings, and world textiles. One of the reasons that the Whitworth's textiles collection is so strong is because they brought samples of the world's best textiles, old and new, to inspire the makers of the Manchester cloth on which the city's fortunes were founded. The Friends are becoming accustomed to being expertly guided on our trips, so who could possibly be better to take us on a tour of the museum than the charming curator of textiles. Frances Pritchard.



The timing of our tour couldn't have been more perfect for yet another reason. We were fortunate enough to see **Magna Carta {An Embroidery}** by the acclaimed British artist Cornelia Parker before it moved to the Bodleian Library in Oxford at the end of October. It's the Wikipedia entry no-one will ever be able to update.

The Ruskin School of Art at the University of Oxford commissioned the work to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta in 2015. A giant embroidered copy of the article for the Magna Carta as it appeared on the document's 799<sup>th</sup> anniversary, measuring 13 metres long and displayed in a specially constructed case, which was first unveiled at the British Library in May 2015.



Some 200 people, from prisoners to pop stars, hand-stitched the artwork. The bulk of the text was sewn by prisoners while the intricate pictures were handled by highly-skilled members of the Embroiderers' Guild. Among the famous names who gave their time with a needle were Antony Gormly, Brian Eno, Caitlin Moran, Edward Snowden, Germaine Greer, Jarvis Cocker, Julian Assange, Mary Beard, Philip Pullman and Baroness Shirley Williams.

Wikileaks founder Assange embroidered the word "freedom" in the Ecuadoran embassy in London where he has been living since 2012 to avoid extradition. Fugitive US intelligence leaker Snowden embroidered "Liberty" in Moscow.

And Jarvis Cocker's handiwork spelt "Common People" - the title of his band Pulp's 1995 hit song. The giant embroidery also featured a tea stain and a spot of blood from two of the prisoners.

A large group of the Friends spent nearly an hour exploring this unique work of art, and we could have stayed even longer had it not been for the parking restrictions around the museum. This time I will definitely not wait so long before visiting the Whitworth again.

## Christmas Lunch December 2015 by Monica Wright

We decided to try something new this Christmas – we decided to have a party! And where better to celebrate than in our own museum at Peel Park.



Nearly thirty of our members also felt like enjoying some festive fun, making this the best attended event of the year.

A glass of spiced apple juice both welcomed and warmed the guests on arrival, allowing them some time to mingle and chat with fellow members before moving to the decoratively laid tables for lunch.

In true Christmas spirit we all put on our party hats as the delicious homemade pies were served, and the conversations soon became a little more subdued, a sure sign that everyone was enjoying their food.

Next it was time to retreat upstairs to a more private space for tea, coffee and mince pies.

It was a bit of a squash and a squeeze to find seats for everyone around the tables but we managed, and soon Don was able to introduce Amy Goodwin and Peter Ogilvie, who work at Salford Art Gallery and Museum.

They had some interesting news about the exhibition celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends and they showed us some of the unusual items which will be on display when it opens early in April.





Peter then decided to have some fun and test our knowledge of Shakespeare's plays from a game dating back to the 1930s.

But guess what. We didn't get one answer right and it was a children's game! Were they really so clever back then?

Finally it was time to continue the fun by playing the board and card games on the tables whilst enjoying a glass or two of sherry, before heading back out into the cold December air.

A huge thank you to all the café staff for their impeccable and friendly service and a special thank you to Jane for baking the delicious meat and cheese pies. Another big thank you to all our members who made this such an enjoyable afternoon. It most certainly will be an event to be repeated next year.

## **On the Buses – a visit to the Museum of Transport – by David Jenkins**

On a bright sunny day in January, 15 Friends made the trek to the Museum of Transport in Greater Manchester where they were rewarded with a memorable tour around a vast array of public road transport. Our guide, Paul, was a wealth of information and took us through an historic tour of beautifully restored working vehicles.

We started, appropriately, at the beginning with a horse-drawn tram from 1890. We didn't envy the upstairs passengers having to brave the elements! The two horses needed a third as a 'banker' for the hills and a total of fifteen horses were needed to support a day's running. Over the next thirty years, these were replaced by electric vehicles and the traditional diesel bus. We were shown a 1927 Leyland Lion in Ribble livery with an enclosed cab for the driver and a familiar sight on many old British movies and period dram



We were then invited to board a Salford green and yellow Daimler double-decker bus. This was a familiar experience for many and brought back happy (?!) memories of journeys to school and work. The development of public transport in the area was explained and the significance of 1968 de-regulation, SELNEC (South East Lancashire and North East Cheshire) and Greater Manchester Transport discussed. The Museum itself was opened in 1979 with fourteen examples from the former bus operators.

Winding our way through the many colourful vehicles, we passed a Routemaster bus trialled in Manchester, a trolley bus (we now know that the long pole used to change / re-connect the pantograph is held in a sling below the vehicle) and a 1973 electric bus which had to be re-charged after three hours. There was also a 1941 Salford Fire Engine with an extendable ladder for high office buildings. This cumbersome vehicle was very top-heavy and therefore restricted to 20 mph!



Many of the Friends instantly recognised the Number 9 to Walkden in its traditional livery. Colours were an important feature of the early buses as fierce competition required a distinctive 'brand'. The preferred colour was always red as this was the cheapest paint and bus operators had then to invest in alternative colours. The detail and insignia of the early buses is quite impressive. Our final stop was in a 1990 prototype of the original Metrolink (from Italy). Paul entertained us with anecdotes on the early trials and tribulations of these vehicles.

This is an impressive collection of working vehicles. Many of them

you may have already seen on screen or television as a major income stream from the Museum is from hire on film sets. (If you have internet access, look on [www.gmts.co.uk/vehicles.html](http://www.gmts.co.uk/vehicles.html) for a list of all the exhibits.) This trip generated a variety of eclectic memories and is well worth a visit. And there is, of course, a Tea Bar!

## COMING SOON AT THE MUSEUM

### WATCH OUT FOR A SERIES OF TALKS, STARTING WITH A TALK ON DAVID BOMBERG'S *STORM CLOUDS* AT SALFORD MUSEUM ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**Details:** Wednesday, 24 February 2016 -7:00pm to 8:00pm **Cost:** £2.00 **No booking required**

**As part of a new series of talks we look in detail at a different painting in our collection each time.** "This month we are delighted to show the museum's 'Storm Clouds' by David Bomberg, which is currently not on public display. Guiding us through the work is artist, curator and writer Helena Tomlin who will be looking in detail at this fascinating work and the artist who created it." Details of further talks from the Museum

## IN THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS GALLERY :

### Gifts, Grants and Games:

Celebrating 60 years of the Friends of Salford Museums

Runs from 2 April to 13 November

The Friends of Salford Museums' Association are celebrating their 60th birthday by sharing some of the fascinating objects they have helped to secure for the museum collections. From pencil sketches to oil paintings, sculptures to games, many of the items have not been on public display for a number of years. In addition, the Friends support a large number of projects and funding grants for both Salford Museum and Art Gallery and Ordsall Hall. Visit to see this eclectic mix of objects, find out about the Friends and play on our giant board game!



**FOR OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT SMAG AND ORDSALL HALL – PLEASE SEE JANUARY TO JUNE WHAT'S ON GUIDE, AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM AND AT ORDSALL HALL OR CONTACT THE PHONE NUMBERS BELOW:**

<b>ORDSALL HALL</b> Tel 161 872 0251	<b>SALFORD MUSEUM - PEEL PARK</b> Tel 0161 778 0800	<b>LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY</b> Tel 0161 778 0814
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**OR DOWNLOAD WHAT'S ON GUIDE FROM:**

<http://www.salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/salford-museum-and-art-gallery>

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS PEEL PARK, SALFORD, 6 P.M, 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2016**

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Salford Museums' Association (Registered Charity no. 1057371) will be held at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, Salford, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at 6 p.m. and all members of the Association are invited to attend.

**AGENDA - PLEASE BRING THIS PAGE WITH YOU TO THE MEETING ON 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**

Welcome by *President*.

1. Appointment of Chairman for the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of A.G.M. held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015
4. Matters arising
5. Report by our President, Don Rainger
6. Secretary's report/Committee report
7. Presentation of the Association's annual accounts for 2015 (See Financial News pages)
8. The Association's Policy on Reserves (See pages 4 and 5 of Financial News)
9. Auditor's report
10. Approval of the annual accounts for 2015
11. Subscriptions for 2017
12. Election of Officers for the posts of:

Chairman: **POST VACANT**

Vice-Chairman: Presently **John Finley**

Secretary: Presently **Rosemary Boardman**

Treasurer: Presently **David Jenkins**

13. Appointment of Committee Members: The following are currently members:

**There are vacancies for Committee Members**

Philip Heyes

Martha Scott-Finley

,Deborah Ivill

Monica Wright

**(2 Vacancies)**

14. Appointment of Auditors
15. Report of BAFM representative



- 16. Any other business of which notice has been given by **16<sup>th</sup> March 2016** under Constitution Clause 23(d) to the Secretary of F.S.M.A. at Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, Salford, M5 4WU
- 17. Closing remarks by Chairman
- 18. **Guest Speaker – Dr Mike Nevell, Head of Archaeology at Salford University on recent archaeology work by team in Salford (New Bailey Prison, Exchange Station to name two).**

## NOMINATION FORMS

### Nomination Form for FSMA Officers

I..... of .....

Nominate ..... of .....

to be Chairman / Vice Chairman / Secretary / Treasurer (**delete** as appropriate) of FSMA

Seconded by.....of.....

- Please make copies of this form for further nominations for officer posts : note that **apart from the post of Chairman, presently vacant**, all present office holders are eligible for re-election.
- All nomination forms to be sent to the Secretary, FSMA, at the Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, Salford M5 4WU **no later than Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

### Nomination Form for a FSMA Committee Member (Two current vacancies)

I..... of .....

Nominate ..... of .....

to be a Committee Member of FSMA

Seconded by.....of.....

- Please make copies of this form for further nominations to the committee – **there are up to two vacancies**
- All nomination forms to be sent to the Secretary, FSMA, at the Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, Salford M5 4WU **no later than Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

**NEED TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ?**

**PLEASE TURN TO THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER!**