

WINCHCOMBE MUSEUM



Newsletter

October 2026

Winchcombe Pottery Centenary



The celebrations of the Centenary of Winchcombe Pottery has continued over the summer. The Pottery had an open day and was slightly overwhelmed by the numbers attending. They emptied the kiln of the latest firings and sold them all. The queue for paying for these and the standard items in the shop extended through the shop and out into the driveway. They also unveiled some special commemorative items designed by Katie Morgan. We are very pleased to have been donated a commemorative mug which will come in handy for their next anniversary in about fifty years. We have also been loaned for the rest of our exhibition in the Museum a plate showing the Pottery with its bottle kiln,

We have extended our exhibition until Sunday 10 October - an extra week than we had planned. The reason for this that an American gentleman is coming over from the States and will be visiting Winchcombe on the 9th. As he is the person who donated a substantial portion of our pottery

collection some few years ago and has never seen it in person, we thought we should delay our display change.



Queues at the check-out



One satisfied customer



Centenary Mug



Centenary Plate

New Exhibitions



When the Pottery Exhibition finishes - we will be putting it away on Monday 12 October - we will be putting up a display of the Bayeux Tapestry. Unfortunately, not the real thing. We were not able to persuade anybody that our need is greater than the British Museum and we could not get the 19th century copy from Reading that clothed all the naked bodies. As I went to see the Tapestry a few years ago I had a copy of the book that was sold there. In addition, Anne Crow has a book that had the tapestry on two lines per page, so you will be seeing scans from this plus some commentary from the British Museum. This is the nearest most of us will get to seeing the Tapestry in this country.

The Tapestry Exhibition will be coming down for a week between the 26 October and 2 November whilst we display the entries from the Children's Drawing Competition of the Winchcombe Meteorite.

From Tuesday 19th October a small group of local Metal Detectorists will be showing some of their finds, including some of the Postlip Hoard, made in the Winchcombe area. This display in the cabinets will go on to the end of the winter season, with the Bayeux Tapestry on the Display Boards.



New Acquisitions

We have been given a model of the Corner Cupboard Inn by a firm of auctioneers in Southern Gloucestershire. The card that came with it says it was made by an "S May" in 1948. Any of you know who S May is or,



more likely, was?

One of our volunteers, who also works in a local Charity Shop, spotted two old paintings that had been handed in. She notified the Museum and another of our volunteers went and purchased them and immediately donated them to the Museum. They are two paintings of the interior of St Peter's Church and were painted in 1910 by a lady called Amie Livens who lived on Gloucester Street. She was 23 at the time, going from the 1910 Census. Both she and her sister were listed as art students and their father, Henry John Livens, was a full time artist and painter - I was even able to find him listed on the internet. Amie became a nun at a convent in Finchley, London. She continued her painting and became known as the Painting Nun, signing as Sister Mary Etheldreda. Her painting of The Last Supper which hangs in a church in the United States, used her fellow nuns as the Apostles and then added beards to them all.

Editorial

A full Newsletter this month. I hope you can follow the sequence of exhibitions and not get too confused. I am hoping that we did manage to get it right without gaps or duplications.

Just to remind you that the Museum from the end of October will only be open Saturdays and Sundays (10:00 to 4:00) until next Spring. Easter next year is in March so we might be able to open up for this rather than from 1 April.

Who Painted This?



After I asked whether anyone might recognise the artist for a painting of the Spoonley Villa ruins, I got a reply from Derek Maddock, the Archivist at Sudeley Castle. He suggested it was by Emma Maria Bazeley who was the sister of the Rev William Bazeley an antiquarian who led the excavations of the villa in the 1880's. The title is "Remains of Old Roman Villa, Spoonley Woods". Derek got his information using a search on Google for "*Painting of Remains of old Roman Villa Spoonley Wood artist EMB*". Interestingly when I did the same search a few days later I got the suggestion it was by Marianne Brocklehurst. Derek does not recognise this as a work by Mar-

ianne who was a good cartoonist but not so good with watercolours. Wonderful how internet searches can change answers in a few days.

Excavations

Gloucestershire Archaeology did their dig on top of Cleeve Hill to see what else they could find out about the grandstand for the old race course. When I went up on the 5th of August, they had uncovered the stone foundations. The only find they had made that morning was a small metal button. At that stage they had not dated it.



Dendrochronology

This is the science of dating timbers by the growth ring patterns. This allows scientists to calculate when a tree was felled and in turn when a building was erected. However it assumes that the wood was used soon after being cut and it had not been reused from a previous building. The Gloucestershire Building Recording Group has successfully dated buildings using this technique on buildings all over the county. The last project was at Bishops Cleeve and now they are coming to Winchcombe having been to Sudeley Castle. They are holding a public meeting at Abbeyfields on 14 October at 7:30pm to start the project and let people know about it. If you are attending the meeting you will be able to add your name to a list of possible houses to have your timbers dated. I strongly suggest you should only put your name down if you live in Winchcombe and have a very old house. How many houses they do will depend on their funding. The poster is below, well on the next page.

7.30pm 14th October at the Abbey Fields Community Centre

Seeking the Medieval Buildings of Winchcombe

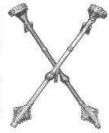
by Dr Andy Moir (Tree-ring dating expert) &
David Aldred (Local Historian & Author)

This project launch talk will discuss:

- How tree-ring dating has changed the accepted history of Sudeley Castle
- Where timber features identify likely surviving medieval buildings in Winchcombe
- What the project hopes to achieve with the help of local building owners



In association with Winchcombe Museum. Cost on the door £5



The museum's winter talks will start in October. They will be held at the Abbeyfields Community Centre on the first Wednesday of each month. Doors will open at 2:00 and the talk will start at 2:30. The cost will be £5 and refreshments are included.



October 7th: "History beneath your feet": Paul Woollins will share his enthusiasm for metal-detecting.

November 4th: "Alice and Bill Bayliss - the story of a Winchcombe family who fought in and survived the First World War." Adrian Bailey will tell the story of a Winchcombe man, who served on H.M.S. Orion throughout the Great War, and his family.



December 2nd: "Hailes Abbey and the Mystery of the Holy Blood": David Aldred will discuss the stories of the abbey's very precious relic.



January 6th: "The History of Farmcote": Alexander Jaskowski will be exploring the village named Fernecote in the Domesday Book of 1086.



February 3rd: "From Winchcombe to South Africa: the Boer War secrets of a church plaque revealed" - a talk by David Morgan.

March 3rd: "John Henry goes to war": Derek Maddock, the archivist at Sudeley Castle, will reveal all.

