

Friends of Malton Museum

Spring 2018



Welcome to the Spring newsletter from the Friends of Malton Museum! I hope you have kept warm over the winter months. Notwithstanding the weather and dark nights, our stalwart supporters have been entertained climbing Chimney Bank, exploring Roman Trimontius and finding out more about Hanging Grimston. Our Spring programme unlocks the Georgian activities of York House, here in Malton, and later we tour the monasteries of north east Yorkshire. I hope to see you there or at our more social AGM in May where Claire Sawdon will be speaking on the highlights of her three years as Development Officer.

Very sadly, two Museum Trustees have died since our last newsletter, Steve Bence and Elizabeth Hartley. Both played key roles in the setting up of the Museum in its marketplace venue and in the professional organisation of the Museum. Brief obituaries are on page 2.

One of our aims is to provide voluntary assistance and support to the Museum. Many of the Friends are the backbone of the Museum's volunteers in front of house, education and collections. We are using this newsletter to describe in more detail some of the current work. The rather dry description does not do justice to the interest in the tasks. Should this inspire you to consider volunteering, do contact Claire Sawdon.

As many of you are already aware the AGM will be my last meeting as Chairman. Returning to North Yorkshire after a 30 year exile in central London, I was struck by just how welcoming Malton was, and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the town, its history and, most of all, yourselves. I hope to attend occasionally in the future, so I will not entirely vanish. Protem, the Friends' Committee will cover my role, but we are hoping that some identify themselves as interested in the future organisation of the Friends. Do think about it! Vivat Fido!

Susan Palmer

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The Museum Foundation was delighted to welcome **Mrs Gill Gimes** as a new Trustee of the Foundation who wrote:

I joined as a Trustee of Malton Museum Foundation in November 2017, having had my interest piqued by Christine McDonnell, Mentor of Malton Museum who is a work colleague, and further developed by a fascinating afternoon spent with Peter Addyman looking round the museum, stores and the Roman Fort in Malton. Shamefully, I have to admit that I knew very little of Malton up to that point, having only moved to Yorkshire 3 years ago.

I moved here from Warwickshire to join York Archaeological Trust as Chief Financial Officer. Having had an interest in heritage and history since school I jumped at the chance to join the Executive team in an organisation passionate about archaeology and the impact of heritage on communities and individuals. In Warwickshire I was Director of Finance & Business Support for The Myton Hospices and worked in the commercial sector prior to moving to Myton in 2006. I gained my A.C.M.A following a B.A in Education at the University of Warwick.

I volunteered for 10 years as a room guide for the National Trust at Charlecote Park near Stratford upon Avon, was also a Mentor for the Prince's Trust and a Patron of the Royal Shakespeare Company. I have a retired husband and two grown up sons, one of whom teaches in Warwick and one works in York, and we live in Sand Hutton with Bumble the Labrador, who is named after the cricketer, cricket being another passion.

I am looking forward to meeting Friends and volunteers and getting involved with the work of the Museum and I hope I bring some useful skills.

The Museum community was saddened to hear of the death of two of the Trustees of Malton Museum Foundation in recent months.

Elizabeth Hartley

Elizabeth had been a Trustee of Malton Museum for a number of years. Her close association with the Museum went back to the 1970ies when, as Keeper of Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum, she was seconded by North Yorkshire County Council to transfer the Museum from the Milton Rooms to the Old Town Hall. Working with the distinguished architect Ron Sims she masterminded the new displays which transformed the museum into one of the best and most stylish small museums in Yorkshire and the most important exhibition of local Roman material outside the Yorkshire Museum itself.

Elizabeth was a professional archaeologist, her career taking her from the British Museum to the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester, with its spectacular displays of Roman finds, and then to York. There she was responsible for a succession of blockbuster exhibitions on various archaeological themes culminating in one in 2006 celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation, in Eboracum, Roman York, of Constantine the Great as Emperor.

Steve Bence 1956-2017:

Former Honorary Secretary of Malton Museum Foundation

Steve Bence had been Honorary Secretary and Trustee of Malton Museum Foundation for a number of years until illness caused him to give up the post at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Sadly he died towards the end of 2017.

Steve's retirement after a long and successful career in the Rail industry allowed him to follow another of his great interests, archaeology, working with the Scarborough and District Archaeological Society, helping to found the High Wolds Heritage Group and promoting their excavations at Hanging Grimston Deserted Medieval Village, which members may have visited last summer. Only illness prevented him from giving an account to the Friends of progress on this exciting project during the present lecture season.

Steve joined the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Roman Section, helping latterly to run the Society itself, and in 2017 he was elected Chairman and Trustee of Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire, bringing the same dose of practical efficiency to its work.

Steve proved a highly effective Hon Sec of Malton Museum, bringing system, precision and good sound business sense to the work of the Museum Foundation, and practical vision to its development. Latterly, on a 2017 Away Day for Trustees, he made valuable contributions which found their way into the Museum's Draft Forward Plan for 2018-21. We shall thus continue to benefit from the input of this charming, enthusiastic and highly organised man for some years to come.

Peter Addyman

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A rare invitation for Malton Museum - an invitation to send sixteen items from their Roman Collection to the **Nature Through Roman Eyes exhibition at Manchester Museum.**

This exhibition is inspired by the 1st century AD Roman writer Pliny the Elder's encyclopaedic work The Natural History. It draws upon Manchester and other Museum's rich archaeology and natural sciences collections to explore the various ways in which the Romans understood and made use of the natural world, including animals, plants and trees.

Nature Through Roman Eyes runs 6 April – 30 October 2018 and features along with 15 other items from Malton Museum's Roman collection - our jet bear!



Found outside the roman fort, this finely carved bear was buried with a child, probably to protect the child in the Underworld as mother bears fiercely protect their cubs.

Become a Friend of Malton Museum

Sounds quite mundane - but what a window of opportunity it offers anyone who takes up that invitation.

Become a Friend, and immediately make new friends.

Learn more of the Museum, its history and operation.

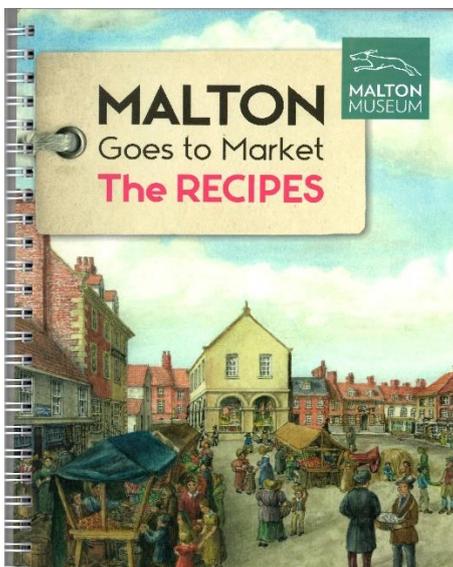
Take a step further and get involved in one of our special projects.

Application forms are available from the Museum

These are just some of the projects in which Friends have become involved.

- Specialist photography of artefacts from the collection.
- Webmaster - monitoring and updating the website
- Front of House - meeting and greeting our visitors and passing on our enthusiasm for the museum to them.
- Oral history interviews, listening and recording those fascinating personal histories
- As a member of the Collections Team, learning the care of the artefacts, objects from prehistoric stone tools and Roman pottery to 19th and 20th-century items, all illustrating the area's rich history.
- Helping to research speakers for the Friends Lectures and setting up an interesting programme
- Providing your own local knowledge to help us formulate a town tour
- Going off site with the Education team and learning to show both schools and adult groups our Roman, Pre-history and Stone Age Collections
- Getting involved with our various fund raising events e.g. the 2017 garden party and one of the Food Festivals
- Could you help with sewing costumes?
- Write a blog for the website
- With training - research specific projects.
- And enjoy an annual Away Day for Friends and Volunteers - this year to Skipton Castle and Craven Museum. Organised by Claire Sawdon, we were welcomed to Skipton Castle and given an excellent tour by their chief guide, following lunch we went on to visit Craven Museum and learned of their operation. An interesting day and the opportunity for both Friends and Volunteers to meet, discuss and appreciate their own roles in Malton Museum as well as the operation of another museum.

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Have you bought your Museum Cookery Book yet - have you tried the historic recipes ?

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Mrs Rose's Queen Cakes.
probably Queen Charlotte,
consort of George III, from the
recipe published by Elizabeth
Raffard the Manchester
confectioner in 1778

Fig Pudding by Nurse Acia 1907
and many more meat, fish and
sweet recipes

Recipe Books available from the Museum £8.99

Summer Lectures and Tours 2018

30th May **“Chariots swords and mirrors - the iron age burials of the Yorkshire Wolds” by Dr Melanie Giles**
 Time - 7.00 - 9.00p.m. Cost £5.00
 Venue - Malton Museum Assembly Room

27th June - **Discovering Star Carr by Professor Nicky Milner**,
 Professor of Archaeology at the University of York who specialises in the Mesolithic period, focusing on wetland archaeology and coastal shell middens.

Time - 7.00 - 9.00p.m. Cost £5.00
 Venue - Malton Museum Assembly Room

21st July - **Walking Tour: Tour of Orchard Fields with Dr Pete Wilson, Rarey Archaeology**

Please note this tour is a walking tour and the ground is uneven under foot. Please meet outside the walled entrance to the Old Lodge, Old Maltongate, Malton, YO17 7EG

Time: 11am - 12.30 repeated 2pm - 3.30pm
 Cost: £5 per person

15th August - **Roman Malton in Twenty Objects by Dr Peter Addyman**,
 Chairman of Malton Museum Foundation. His talk uses objects from the Museum's remarkable collections to tell the story of Roman Malton's origins, life and eventual end.

Time - 7.00 - 9.00p.m. Cost £5.00
 Venue - Malton Museum Assembly Room

8th September **Tour of Medieval Malton**

Join our volunteer Collections Manager Ann Clark as she takes you on a journey around Malton's market place and surrounding streets and explains its Medieval past.

Please note this is a walking tour and the ground is uneven under foot. The tour will start and end at Malton Museum. This tour has a limited availability.

Times: 11am - 12.30 repeated 2pm - 3.30pm
 Cost £5 per person

22nd September - **The Vikings on Our Land:**

How the Vikings Changed Ryedale and the Yorkshire Wolds
 by Professor Julian Richards

and

The creation of rural communities in the Vale of Pickering and on the northern Wolds between the 7th and 11th centuries AD by Dr Stuart Wrathmell.

Time - 3.00 - 5.00 p.m. Cost £5.00
 Venue - Malton Museum Assembly Room

The lectures at Malton Museum will be held in the Assembly Rooms, which are situated up a flight of stairs. Unfortunately, due to the age of the building, there is currently no lift access available.

Pre-booking is required for all tours and talks: Call 01653 691262 or email on enquiries.maltonmuseum@gmail.com or in person at the Museum.

For details of adult and children's workshops call into the Museum or check the Museum website www.maltonmuseum.co.uk.

PROGRAMME for
 2018/2019

19th September
The Flying Scotsman
 By Bob Gwynne

17th October
“Albania - a secret land revealed”
 By Joyce Hill
 University of Leeds

21st November
The Harrying of the North
 By Gillian Waters
 University of York

Christmas Break

16th January 2019.
'The Development of Victorian Chemists' Shops'.
 By Mike Pitt

20th February 2019
The Broughton Excavation (Roman period).
David Snowden.

20th March 2019
The Percehay Family of Ryton.
David Brewer.

17th April 2019
The History of York Through 100 Plaques.
Elizabeth Reid
York Civic Trust.

15th May 2019
AGM
and
What's in a Name.
Margaret Shaw.

Friends Lectures are held in the
 Library, Malton School, Malton
 YO17 7NH

Starting at 7.30 p.m.