

SAXMUNDHAM MUSEUM

SPRING 2016

Exhibition of Schooling in Saxmundham, Benhall and Kelsale

Richard and Vivienne Wills Crisp have been working hard preparing this year's new display. The exhibition traces the local provision of education from its tangible beginnings right up to the present day.

There is a specific focus on the **Modern School**, which closed in 1973, becoming the **Middle School** from 1973 to 2012, after which the **Free School** that we have today.



If the names of these characters take you back to your school days, then this exhibition will be of special interest to you ... Mr. Westthorpe, Mr. Rasmussen, Miss Addy, Mr. Minton, Mr. Lovett, Mrs. Dudley, Mrs. Free, Mr. Short ... and more recently, Mr. Atherton!

This is a real community display, where local people, who may never have previously visited the Museum, are encouraged to do so, along with their family and friends.

And it will be of general interest too, charting the many and varied places of education from Mr. Sparrow's Academy in Albion Street to a girls 'Finishing School' in Church House. It's on for one season only, don't miss it!

◀ *Richard Wills Crisp hard at work on our new exhibition for 2016*

A brighter year ahead!

Huge thanks to Saxmundham & District Rotary Club whose generous donation enabled us to buy new LED light bulbs to replace our existing halogen bulbs. As well as improving the lighting in the Museum, we should also be able to reduce our future energy costs. The Rotary Club donation also enabled us to purchase a voice recorder for our oral history project.

Kevin French of Beacon Lights hands over the new bulbs to the Museum's Kevin Gale ▶



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saxmundham Museum

Film Evening

Thursday 10th March 7.00pm
Little Miss Sunshine
For tickets please email
penny@saxmundhammuseum.org.uk

Stewards' Coffee Morning

Friday 11th March 10.30am
Learn about new exhibits, training reminders, pick up your polo or sweatshirt

Pre-Season Preview

Wednesday 23rd March 7.00 pm
A chance for friends and guests to celebrate the new season

Museum open for Easter

2016 season starts Saturday 26th March, 10am to 1pm. From then, Mondays to Saturdays until 30th September

Friends' Summer Event

More details to follow

History Society

March 10th : Crime on the Home Front
April 14th : Lady Katherine Grey, her State Funeral at Yoxford 1568
May 12th : Suffolk Artists & Historians

History Society lectures take place at the URC Hall, Chapel Road, Saxmundham at 7.30pm
All welcome. Non members £3

Details

Richard Crisp: 01728 663583
Or visit the Museum website



facebook.com/saxmundhammuseum
twitter.com/saxmuseum

Oral History Project



This year sees the start of our oral history project – we want to capture the stories of the town’s elders so that their knowledge isn’t lost.

Please get in touch if you, or someone you know, has time to talk to us. We’re happy to come to you and it should take around an hour.

Q – How many people entered the Museum’s Quiz Night?

The Museum’s first fund-raising quiz night was a resounding success, selling out 10 days before the event itself.

Thanks to Steve and Jane for a challenging set of questions and for quiz mastering, and to Richard Crisp for an extremely tricky Saxmundham-themed round – we’ve added a few of those questions here, in case you weren’t able to attend. (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

1. Which famous painter used to live in the building which is now Jackie L’s jewellery shop?
2. Which national retailer now occupies the site of the old cinema?
3. In which year did the railway come to Saxmundham?
4. What used to be sold on the meadow where the Surgery is now found?

A 96

Your Museum Needs You !!!

The Museum is kept open by our band of volunteer stewards. If you can spare 3 hours once a month, why not join us?

As a Museum steward you would not be expected to know everything about Saxmundham, the local area or the museum.

There’s no pressure and no stress or hard work. We aim for Saxmundham

Museum to be a great community asset and we want everyone to enjoy being involved.

Stewards are also invited to our various events throughout the year.

If you’re interested, please either call in at the Museum or email:

stewards@saxmundhammuseum.org.uk

It’s been a busy winter at the Museum

Despite it being the closed season, we’ve seen plenty of enthusiastic visitors.

Our Christmas Saturday openings attracted many first time visitors, raised useful funds and brought in several new local photographs which we’ve scanned into the Museum system.

The film nights have continued to attract full houses often including people who’ve never visited the Museum before.

Don’t lose it!

If you know about the town from years gone by or have experience of a particular subject, please find time to share that knowledge with the Museum: agriculture, buildings and architecture in the town, railway, industry, retail Saxmundham, hotels and pubs.

We’re currently investigating Saxmundham’s lost pubs, such as the Bottle & Glass. If you have any memories or photos you’d like to share, please either drop in to the Museum and talk to one of the stewards, or email us.

Quiz Answers: 1. Henry Bright 2. Tesco 3. 1859 4. Lambs
And the number of people attending was 96 (16 teams of 6)

An historic occasion

More than 70 people enjoyed the Museum’s annual Friends evening at Sternfield House in November.

As well as delicious food and wine and fabulous singing from Penny Mackay, Friends had the opportunity to hear something of the extraordinary history of the house which has played host to Winston Churchill and many of the Royal Family, to name but a few.



Sincere thanks to the Fox family for generously lending their home to the Museum’s Friends and to Jonathan Fox, for his fascinating potted history.

Join now

Becoming a friend of Saxmundham Museum costs just £15 a year or £20 for family membership.

You’ll be invited to talks and events of special interest, plus our annual party!

We rely on the support of Friends to stay open. If you aren’t already a Friend, please drop into the Museum and complete a form, or send us your name, address and contact details plus a cheque for £15 or £20 made out to ‘Saxmundham Museum’. Thank you.

Contact

Saxmundham Museum
49 High Street
Saxmundham IP17 1AJ

Email:
info@saxmundhammuseum.org.uk

We’re always pleased to receive reviews and comments or suggestions as to improvements we might make.

We’d love to know what you think of the newsletter too!

