

New display for 2020

Benjamin Britten's Saxmundham Links

Thanks to the Britten-Pears foundation over at the Red House in Aldeburgh, we've learnt a little of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears' connections to Saxmundham.

From motor vehicle sales, repairs and servicing to water softeners and salt, they relied on Saxmundham businesses for everyday items.

H.G. Crisp printed music programmes, cards and stationary. Smith and Wesby kept the cars serviced and insured, while occasionally acting as chauffeurs.



Britten and Imogen Holst with his Jensen Interceptor

Roy Fishwick and co. looked after the dogs. All of this and more is featured in a new display this year.

New resources in reference room

A major project to catalogue the Museum's written artefacts relating to shops on Saxmundham High Street is now available for visitors to look at in the reference room at the back of the Museum.

The reference room, which was completely refurbished two years ago, is already home to the interactive display of historic photos of the town and the oral history archive.

The library of local history books is kept here too and documents outlining specific projects, like a history of pubs and inns, for example.

Ho Ho Ho!



Our festive open day in December was a very busy treat.

New faces and old enjoyed mulled wine and a chance to chat about Saxmundham past and present.

Town Trail

The current edition of the Saxmundham Town Trail has been produced by the Museum.

The illustrated, eight-page guide is available for just £2.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friends of the Museum



Films shown each month on the third Thursday. See poster at the Museum for full list for 2020 season. To book call 01728 605744. Suggested donation £5.

Museum opens for 2020

Wednesday 1st April, 10am
Open Monday to Saturday (excluding Good Friday), 10am to 1pm, until 30th September
Admission is Free, donations always welcome.

WINTER ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP

A full house at the Quiz Night

Thank you to all the quizzers who came along to enjoy the Saxmundham Museum Quiz Night at the Market Hall. The evening was a great success, with team 'TMS' ending as victors.

The Quiz Night has become an invaluable fund-raising fixture on the Museum's winter calendar.

Here's a question for those who couldn't be there:



Q If you had with you a lobster, a bee and a duck billed platypus, how many 'legs' would there be?

20 legs in total.

A Assuming everything was intact, a lobster has eight, a bee six and a platypus four but there would also be YOU so that's

A night out in Kelsale

Our Museum winter friends evening was held at Kelsale Village Hall last November.

Food was excellent and everyone loved the traditional East Anglian songs from musical trio The Harbour Lights.

If you would like to get notifications of our social events please sign up as a Friend of the Museum.

Oral Histories

If you know someone with memories of Saxmundham in days gone by, please ask them if you can record their stories. The Museum has guidelines with ideas of which questions to ask. For more information, please contact:

info@saxmundhammuseum.org.uk

Please join us

If you can spare a morning or two a month and want to join our lively and welcoming group of volunteers, please e-mail stewards@saxmundhammuseum.org.uk or leave a note with your name and contact number at the Museum.

Full training is given, we provide free tea and biscuits plus invitations to events for Friends and Stewards.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting took place in November but **please note** we are moving the date of the annual meeting to bring it in line with the Museum's financial year end.

The next AGM will take place in April 2021 - we'll announce the date nearer the time.

Group visits

We love arranging special visits for groups or clubs, with 2019 seeing us host more than ever. We already have some pencilled in for 2020.

If you're a member of a group or club and would like to arrange a visit to the Museum, please contact us.

We can host afternoon and evening visits or private showings at our 15-seat cinema.

Legacy gifts

You could help to ensure the future of Saxmundham Museum by leaving a legacy in your will.

The Museum is a registered charity and all gifts received are formally acknowledged and recorded in the Museum's reports and accounts.

Saxmundham & District Local History Society

Thursday 12th March:
The Great Exhibition & Crystal Palace
Geoffrey Kay

Thursday 14th May:
Witchfinder General
Mark Mitchells

Thursday 11th June:
Voices from the Workhouse
Jeanette Robinson

History Society lectures take place at the URC Hall, Chapel Road, Saxmundham at 7.30pm. All welcome. Non members £4.

Details

Richard Crisp: 01728 663583

Contact

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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!

