



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for renewing your subscriptions to the Friends of Orford Museum. John Grayburn, our Friends Administrator is sending you your membership cards with this Newsletter and we hope you will appreciate our new method of issuing these: this method will save us a great deal of work. We are, as always, very grateful for your continuing support which helps us maintain the Museum collection, improve the display in Orford Castle and acquire new items for our archive. We have been informed by the Portable Antiquities Service in Bury St, Edmunds of several very interesting items that have been found in this area and we are currently waiting for more information concerning them. Michael Flint, our late Chairman, was always very keen that we should, from time to time, add to the collection and we hope to use some of the very generous donations made in his memory to fund new acquisitions should they prove suitable and within our budget. We are also very grateful to those of you who pay your subscriptions by Standing Order: it really does save us an immense amount of clerical work and we have, therefore, decided in future, to increase the subscription for those who pay by cheque or cash to £25.00 for a double subscription and £20.00 for a single while leaving the Standing Order subscription at £15.00 and £20.00.

The very successful Celtic exhibition has now been removed from the cases in Orford Castle and we are in the process of re-instating our permanent exhibition of local items. This is being done by Dickon Whitewood and his colleagues from English Heritage and we are very grateful to them for their help. The cases are being cleaned, re-lined and the items re-arranged to give the whole display a fresh look. When all this has been done, the labelling will be renewed so that it is uniform and much clearer.

The Celtic exhibition greatly enhanced the profile of Orford Museum and brought it to the attention of a much wider public and we are very grateful for having been given the opportunity to exhibit this wonderful collection in our cases.

I would also like to thank Sir Edward and Lady Greenwell for continuing to allow us to hold our historical talks in Butley Priory. Clare Greenwell has worked hard to organise these and they continue to attract large audiences. We will be organising further talks in the autumn and we are exploring the possibility of holding a Son et Lumière performance at Butley Priory in August but this is very much in the planning stage.

Jack Cooke is preparing Issue 3 of *The Orford Historian* and he gives you a taste of what to expect further on in this Newsletter. We have had a most interesting approach from a M. Sebastien Schoeffter of Soufflenheim, a town in eastern France, concerning a young airman, Hubert Edward Martin, who was killed together with the rest of the crew of an RAF Avro Lancaster bomber when it crashed there in April 1944 after colliding with another Lancaster bomber. Hubert was born in Orford but his date of birth was not known. Soufflenheim is holding a ceremony of commemoration for these young men and they wish to be able to put his age on the plaque they are erecting to honour them. Brian Boulton, who researched and wrote the biographies of the men of Orford and the surrounding area who died in WWI, has been most helpful in establishing that Hubert was born in April 1924 and we now know that it was 2 April 1924. This young man was, therefore, only 20 when he died and would be 100 years old this month. We are most grateful to Soufflenheim for honouring our citizen in this way and we are hoping that

M. Schoeffter will write a piece for the next issue of *The Orford Historian* about the crash. Quite an email friendship has sprung up between Orford Museum and M. Schoeffter and we have received an invitation to attend the commemoration ceremony being held in Soufflenheim next week but, sadly, no-one is able to attend at such short notice. We very much hope that someone from Soufflenheim will visit Orford at a later date.

Book Launch

On Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 7.00pm. in Orford Town Hall, Harvey Osborne, Professor of History at the University of Suffolk and Chair of the Suffolk Record Society will attend the launch of:

The Great Sea Floods of 1953: The Records of P.J.O. (John) Trist

John Trist “Mr. Agriculture” to Suffolk’s Farming community was a crucial figure after the East Coast sea floods, orchestrating agricultural land recovery. His dedication earned him an OBE. Presented here for the first time, transcriptions of Trist’s own story diary and notes for an official report that was never made public, are enhanced by sixteen meticulous maps. It shows John Trist on a turbulent aerial survey of lost landscapes, touring Suffolk farms on the Suffolk coast and river marshes. Read how wildlife, crops and livestock suffered in the North Sea assault and how farmers mobilised workers in a ‘battle of the breaches’ alongside river board engineers. Delve into statistics and recovery policies to learn how farming was rescued and revived amid fears for post-war national food security. Trist’s heartfelt writing, astute observations and reflections on this historically significant event reveal resilience and and raise questions about governmental and personal responsibilities in in climate crises. This event is free of charge and refreshments will be provided. Please see attached flyer.

Elizabeth Spinney

Issue 3 of *The Orford Historian*

Highlights in Issue 3 will include an article on the early history of the Orford Flower Show, uncovering the mystery behind the Chillesford whale bones and a pilgrimage in search of the last relics of ‘the coastal crust’, Britain’s WWII beach defences. We hope to publish in late summer or early autumn and are always grateful for any ideas or, indeed, articles that you may wish us to include.

Jack Cooke
Editor

General Information

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Orford Castle Opening Times and Prices:

Orford Castle is now open seven days a week until November. To check exact opening and closing times go to|:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/orford-castle/prices-and-opening-times/

Your Orford Museum Friends membership card allows you free entry to the Castle and Museum accompanied by up to six children.