

# Times Past

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STORRINGTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM  
Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

## Return of the First World War Roll of Honour to Storrington

The Roll of Honour commemorating local men lost during the First World War came to light several months ago when Horsham Museum offered it to us on permanent loan because of its obvious connection to the village.

The three panels, the centre panel a watercolour by Paul Hardy, hung in Storrington High Street on the wall of what was then the Village Rooms or Assembly

Rooms, which adjoined the White Horse Hotel. Originally a partial list of the fallen was unveiled in 1917, followed by a further unveiling of the completed list in 1921.

At some point the three panels were taken down and were not seen for many years, and so far only the centre panel with the striking watercolour has been discovered. This was in a very fragile condition and the



thick board it was mounted on was gradually disintegrating. With Horsham Museum's agreement the decision was made to restore the panel, and this work was undertaken by Jessica Jacob, an expert in art restoration, who lives in Storrington. Jessica stresses that the watercolour has been 'stabilised' not 'restored', which means that it is still possible to see what damage had been done but the deterioration has been stopped.

The painting has been remounted and framed, and we were honoured when Lady Emma Barnard agreed to unveil it at the Museum on the third of February. Lt Col. Eric Gill, Chair of the Royal British Legion, who spoke at the unveiling, said, 'It is back now where it belongs.' It can be seen in the Museum and in 2014 will be the focal point of an exhibition to mark the centenary of World War One.



There are several mysteries surrounding the Roll of Honour: Why was it unveiled in 1917 with only a partial list of names of the men who had been lost? When and why was it removed from the High Street? Where are the two outer panels? Paul Hardy, the artist, is also surprising: he made suits of armour including miniature suits for Queen Mary's Dolls' House, and with Alfred Crowhurst was responsible for the galleon weather vane on top of St Mary's Church.

Who knows what will be uncovered by our curatorial team as they continue with their research for the exhibition in 2014?



Top: Unveiling of the Roll of Honour by Lady Emma Barnard

Centre: Mr James Barnard and Lady Emma Barnard in conversation with Major Dougie Covill, MBE, DCM (WW2 Tank Commander)

Bottom: Jessica Jacob at work restoring a document. Here she is assessing acidity and other damage to the paper



## Stuart Duncan, Museum Webmaster, describes our interactive screen

The Museum for first-time visitors has provided a small insight into our history. We have cabinets that contain information of our famous residents, artefacts of village life through agriculture, the home and war times; our excellent exhibitions provide a new energy but what else can we do to ensure the visitor leaves with a good knowledge of our village history?

We receive many local history enquiries: if we had a reference system that could help us build our knowledge, answer those enquiries quickly and provide much more for the visitor, how would we be viewed by our visitors and the community?

Last year I started a new project to help us address these questions. I researched our local history back to the eleventh century, found more famous residents linked to Storrington and the surrounding area and collected the images of past exhibitions. With the help of the curator David Cox at the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum, I was able to plan with the Curatorial Team and create our own interactive screen which went live in September.

It is built on a Microsoft Powerpoint platform and we are able to add slides of information to create a picture show. There are no time outs; there is no need for a keyboard or reliance on the internet. We can link words or names to other pages, show moving images and play music. On each slide there is an arrow to click on to which helps you navigate to the next slide or back to the main topic. It is user friendly.

Over 250 slides have been created so far and there is no limit on how many more can be added. This is a 'live' database, an education source for our schools; it will allow us to add more information and images of any related topic we choose. Already we are adding data for the Great War exhibition and a new project on the Romans being led by Peter Purcell, our latest youth helper.

As a reference system our knowledge will grow and local history enquiries will be at our finger tips. Using the interactive screen, our visitors will know more about their village and its history.

Right: Slides on the interactive screen of Museum exhibitions

### Museum Exhibitions

There are seven exhibitions covered from 2011 to 2012. They include the exhibition poster, photographs of the artefacts and moving images. All can be viewed to bring alive these exhibitions from the past.

### Working in the Community

Six topics define our role and involvement within the Community: see picture on page 4.

### A History of Storrington and its surrounding villages

We start with the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and Storrington's entry into the 'Domesday Book', this continues through the centuries to the current time. There are mentions of the spire of St Mary's being struck by lightning in 1731, the 1864 cottage gardeners' flower show and the Australian cricket XI stopping for lunch at the White Horse in 1907, on their way to play Sussex at Brighton.



*With Paintbrush in Hand*

Artists' Views of Storrington  
15 January - 27 March 2011

01902 740100  
www.storringtonmuseum.org

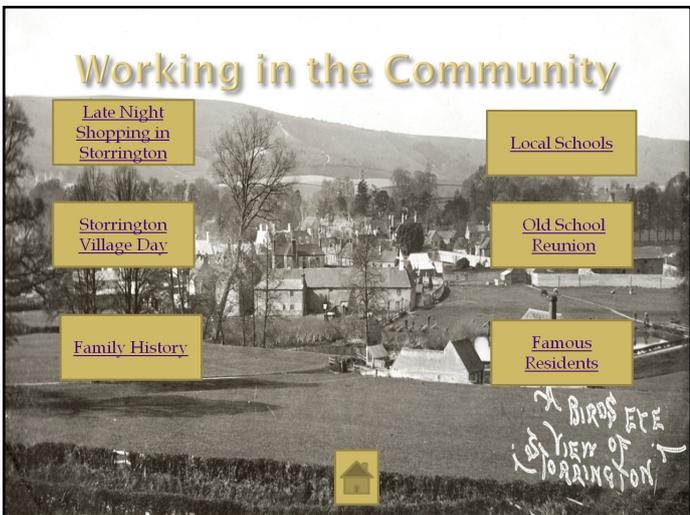
Open every Wednesday  
Starting at 10.30am  
Free - Age 16+  
ADMISSION FREE

STORRINGTON MUSEUM  
The Old School  
School Lane  
Storrington, BN20 4LJ

*Crafts - speaking for themselves*

16th April - 29th June

Exhibitions Page Meet the Artists and their work



Above. Slides from the interactive screen: (top) paintings by children from Storrington First School of medals shown in the World War Two exhibition, 'We Will Remember Them' - see page 3; (bottom) Working in the Community.

Right. Items from the Museum collection: (top) four hand-made books by pupils of Storrington First School from 1990 and Jubilee issue of a collection of poetry also from Storrington First School (1977); (centre) stand for the Goldsworthy Cup and two Bury and West Burton Cricket Club fixture cards; (bottom) 'Cheavin's World Renowned Water Filter', found in a garden in Heath Common and for use before mains water was laid on.

*Do you have a Quirky Collection that You would let us have to display in the Exhibition which opens on 13 July?*

*Anything considered – the quirkier the better.*



## 'All we need is...' Mary Wilson's guide to clearing your house and helping the Museum

Thinking about moving house I approached my loft with fear and trepidation. In its too wide spaces sits treasure-trove/junk from 35 years of 'put it in the loft, dear, it might be useful'. My childless schoolteacher/hoarder aunts bequeathed me boxes of silver paper ('for making those nice pictures, dear'), dressing-up clothes, jigsaws, vases and crockery (mostly chipped), paintings, postcards and photos by the million. There are books: *Janet and John*, *The Official First World War* (seven huge books, very good for flower pressing), and so it goes on. Most of it is too good to bin (my own ex-school teacher opinion) but all totally unsaleable.

What can one do with such stuff? Is there a home for newspaper cuttings, for photos of unknown people and places, for tins full of fossils, snake skins, ribbons, and bits of fur?

'Have a table in the antique shop,' said one. 'Do a car boot sale,' said another. 'Give it to St Barnabas.' These ideas would be OKAY if any of it was worth anything.

So, would the Museum be interested in any of it? One can but ask. I approach my loft with a 'Museum eye'. Newspaper cuttings? Well, you can get them up on the internet, and mine are not really relevant to Storrington. Had they been about Storrington and properly dated or sourced then they would have been useful.

Here are some medals for bridge, but they belong in Hackney, and for football, but from Colchester. Here are wedding photos, but not from Storrington and District, but here's a photo of John Ireland's windmill (in the distance) which could be useful.

How about the pair of extra-wide 1960s jeans? Worthing Museum is a more likely home for them, I think.

Here is a Bible (1857). Because mine holds no local names the Museum will not have room for it. Here are photos of a school in East London (1921) - no good for Storrington. If only they had been of the Old School here, or Spierbridge or Amberley, or any of the other villages which support the Museum.

A box provides a huge number of letters from an emigrant aunt in Australia, full of moans because of the heat and lack of water and the flies, which eventually drove her home—unfortunately not Storrington. The attaché case full of diaries (mostly only completed until about January 10th!) will have to be burnt, along

with the unnamed and unknown photographs and the modern postcards from all over the world, once rare images now so easily accessed on the internet.

The books up here are as dry as dust: *The Art of Photography*, *British Citizenship - Its Rights and Duties*, *My Years in Russia*, *China Awake*, and four sets of encyclopaedias. 'Nobody wants them – it's on the internet Gran.'

Had I lived here all my life the stuff in my loft would probably have been much more relevant to Storrington. The school magazines might have been about Rydon, the newspaper cuttings might have been about Storrington people and events. As it is I have found a few, a very few, interesting things which might be acceptable: the John Ireland photo, a broken clay pipe that I dug up in the garden, a doll's head (actually already in the Museum) which we found under the doorstep when the bungalow was extended (accident, games or ritual?). Then there is an acetylene bicycle lamp used by a Storrington woman in her youth.

In a box I have put some small odds and ends to go in the education suitcase which is taken to schools: some old money (one or two coins of each denomination and some of the short-lived 1/2p. Pieces); some old pairs of steel-rimmed glasses; a button hook; some school text books (*Little Children from Many Lands*, *Conduct Stories*, and *Hand Work for Infants*).

Finally I will take two shepherd's crowns I picked up above Rowdell, and part of an ammonite brought to the surface by the earth-moving machines when the Washington Bypass was built in the 1960s. There may be more. I shall keep looking as I sadly throw most things in the dustbin.

Are you going to move? Or just tidy your attic? From what I have written you might think we are a choosy lot at the Museum, but we have so little storage space that we are compelled to be selective.

Please, however, think of the Museum before you throw anything away. We are grateful for all things to do with our area, which covers Amberley, Bury, Parham, Greatham, Coolham, Wiggonholt, Thakeham, Warminghurst, Washington, Ashington and Storrington.

Thank you very much indeed in anticipation.

## Storrington Old School Project

Victorian group photograph of teachers and pupils



**Can you help Storrington find its past?**

**Please join us in finding out about the history of a key building in Storrington's development.**

The Old School was the focus of village life. It helped make Storrington what it is today. The importance of education in village life cannot be overlooked. As the village grows and develops we want to keep and enhance the village and community spirit. One way of doing that is working together on a project that links us together, and the Old School Project is just that. Thanks to the Heritage lottery Fund we now have the means to capture the past and use it to help Storrington thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **So how can you help us?**

We know some things already but we also know that there are many many gaps in telling the story of the Old School. We would like to hold an exhibition, we would like to have an interactive web page and a booklet. We are open to any suggestion that uses the Old School Project as a spring board.

This is not about what we will do for you but what you can do for the village we all love.

We do need help in the initial stages, to do the ground work. We have put together a brief account of the school history, and below are some of the questions we would like to know the answers to. If you fancy helping us then please contact Stuart Duncan (01903 741106 – email: [storringtonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:storringtonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk))

If you feel you cannot help then do still please read the leaflet and do support our events as the more who know the story of the Old School the more people will see Storrington as a special place and not just a village we live in.

**Did you attend the Old School?  
What are your memories?  
Who were your teachers?  
Who were your friends?  
How has the village changed?**

### **Old School History**

In 1763 Mrs Jane Downer left money to be vested in five trustees, for the teaching of twenty poor children. Mr John Hooper and his wife Mary bequeathed £15 a

year in 1806 to be added to the schoolmaster's pay. In 1821 the post of Parish Clerk was held by John Battcock, who was also the village schoolmaster of the school supported by Mrs Downer's bequest of 1763. It is unlikely that the school building of those days is still standing, but there is some evidence to support the theory that it was opposite St Mary's church in Church Street. *Do you know where?*

It was then run under the auspices of the National Society, and the children paid a small weekly fee for attendance. For the next forty years the Storrington National Boys' School was run by a succession of schoolmasters assisted by their wives. In 1868 a new school was built on land which had been called Bell Acre, opposite the church tower.

The school was enlarged in 1873 and at the end of the century became 'Storrington Board School'. In 1901 Mr Rhoden was appointed Head Master, a post which he held until his retirement thirty years later. During most of that time his first assistant was Miss Gertrude Mitchell. During the First World War the school at Sullington closed and the children came to Storrington. *Did you have an ancestor at the school?*

In 1932 Mr Waller became Head Master and steered the school through the vicissitudes of the Second World War and the opening of the school canteen in the village hall. During Mr Waller's term of office the new County Secondary School was built in Thakeham parish and named after Mr Rydon. In 1939 the senior children from Storrington and the neighbouring villages were transferred to the new school. *Did you attend either school?*

When the primary school was opened at Spierbridge in 1964, the old building ceased to be used as a school, although some infants' classes still met in the prefabricated classrooms in School Lane until accommodation was provided for them at Spierbridge. 1964 marked the end of an era, because the closing of the old school was linked with the retirement of Mr Waller after more than thirty years' service.

**The Old School Project  
Storrington and District Museum  
The Old School  
School Lane  
Storrington, RH20 4LL**

**Tel: 01903 740188  
email: storringtonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk**

## Visit to Coultershaw Beam Pump

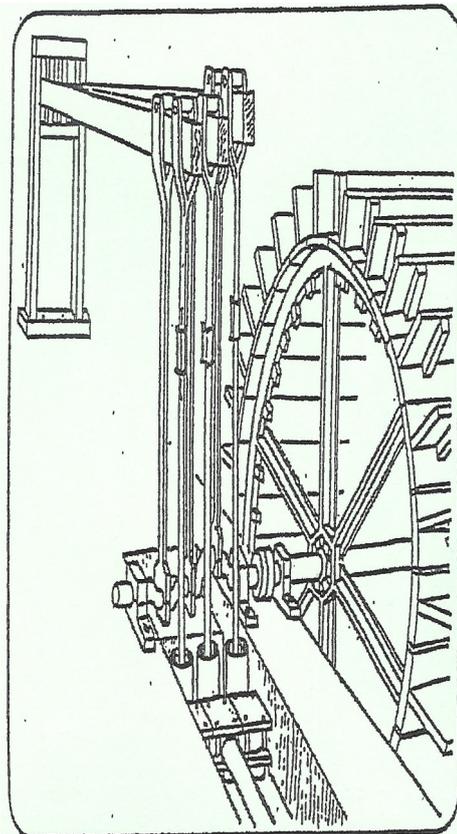
**Tuesday, 23 July, 2.15 pm**

There have been mills at Coultershaw since early times. A waterwheel-driven beam pump was installed in 1782 by the 3rd Earl Egremont to supply water to Petworth House and the town via a 3 inch diameter cast iron pipe 1.5 miles long. This worked until 1960 and lay derelict until restored by the Sussex Industrial Archeological Society in 1976. In 2012 a modern 15kw Archimedes Screw water turbine was installed on the site which generates electricity to the National grid.

A cream tea will be taken at Petworth Old Railway Station. The Pulborough to Petworth Railway line was opened on 10 October 1859. The line was closed to passenger trains from 5 February 1955, then goods services were withdrawn in 1963. Petworth station survives as a hotel using former Pullman dining carriages.

Cost £7.50 per head. Numbers limited so advance booking is essential; ring 01903745051 or email [megeveritt@btinternet.com](mailto:megeveritt@btinternet.com) for tickets.

**Meet at Petworth Old Railway Station**



## Museum Exhibition: Butterflies and Moths



Bob Palmer with part of his collection

reproductive system, which is unique for every single species.

Bob's years in Scotland contributed to knowledge of both micros and macros. The micro *Callisto coffeella* was discovered, new to Britain, in 1983 in a Highland glen near Braemar. In 2001 Bob discovered the fourth British colony of one of Britain's rarest macros, the Dark Bordered Beauty. This colony, in the grounds of Balmoral Castle, became the subject of Bob's active conservation effort. With the financial support of Butterfly Conservation Scotland, and with the help of several volunteers, the dietary requirement of the very fussy larva for short young aspen suckers was maintained. This conservation work has continued after Bob's departure, ensuring the survival of the moth.

Bob Palmer, a Storrington resident, caught his first butterfly at the age of six and was hooked for life—firstly on butterflies, of which there are about 60 resident British species, and later on the moths which number over 2500.

Born and raised in Surrey, Bob and his wife Judy spent the first 40 years of their married life in Aberdeen, an entomologically little-studied area. In his early days there Bob took on the voluntary role of county moth recorder for Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire. In 1972 he published the first county list for 80 years, listing a total of nearly 700 species. By the time he left in 2008 the list contained over a thousand species.

Moths are divided (on a purely historical and non-scientific basis) into the larger moths (macrolepidoptera) and the smaller moths (microlepidoptera). About 40% are classed as 'macros' and are widely studied. The remainder are 'micros', mostly much smaller, as their name implies, with some as small as 4mm in wingspan. Micros are often very difficult to identify. Whilst collecting larger moths and butterflies is largely frowned upon nowadays, taking specimens of micros is essential if one is to study them seriously; they often need careful examination under a microscope and frequently require dissection of the

Although based in Northern Scotland Bob was a regular visitor to the South of England and was approached to begin compiling a book on the smaller moths of his old home county of Surrey. Commencing in 1990, Bob worked for 22 years on this book with his two co-authors, Jim Porter and Graham Collins, and it was finally published by Surrey Wildlife Trust last autumn.

In 2008 Bob and Judy, now both retired, moved to Storrington to be closer to their family. In his five years in West Sussex Bob has added to the knowledge of our local moths. The list of species recorded from his garden is currently 670, and he hopes in a few more years his garden list will exceed the number of moths in the whole of Aberdeenshire!

The exhibition portrays a love of butterflies and moths dating back over 60 years. Some species of importance are highlighted in each cabinet and some of particular interest are shown in detail in individual displays. During the course of the exhibition Bob will be happy to pop into the Museum to talk moths to any visitors who have questions.

**Opening day of the Moths and Butterflies exhibition is Saturday 13 April (10 am - 4 pm with home-made refreshments available all day). It runs until 30 June.**

Editorial Team: David Bussey, John Wharmby, Cliff Wilks

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