



JULY 2016

NEWSLETTER

BALDOCK MUSEUM & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum eventually reopened in time for the Baldock Festival after much last-minute effort. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we had hoped to be ready for our normal opening in March but Tesco were unable to start work on redecorating and replacing skirtings etc. until April. This was partly because the manager of the Baldock branch did not want the job done only on that part of the rooms that had been replastered but wanted the whole of both rooms redecorated and recarpeted and talked in terms of several staff coming to do it. In the event only two came, Elaine Hewitt and Luke Smith, and they did a really good job and even managed to improve the carpets ruined during the Community Service 'redcoration'. The Museum is now looking as good as it has ever done, the damp proofing seems to have worked and it no longer smells damp. We are very grateful to Elaine and Luke for all their efforts and to Tesco for bearing the cost. We do not know if the new carpet is still in the pipeline.

With the redecoration only being finished less than a week before the Festival there was a bit of a panic to get the Museum ready in time, and also to prepare a new display for the Festival Street Fair day called '*Baldock in the Middle Ages*'. Some members may recall that we did a display of that name back in 1998 which was shown for four days in St. Mary's Church Hall (there was no Museum then) and we had intended to put it back up again. However it turned out to be so large that it could not fit in the Museum so the whole thing had to be reworked and considerably shortened. Although this involved a lot of work, at a time when the Museum also needed refitting for opening, it was an opportunity to make the thing more readable and incorporate some of the more recent research.

COMING EVENTS:

Thursday 28th July: *Are you Being Served?* Shops and shopping in Baldock between the wars, by Frank Foy – a light hearted look at some of the things you could buy in the town in the '20s and '30s.
(*We regret that Judy Flack's talk has been cancelled due to ill- health*)

Thursday 22nd September: A.G.M., Quiz and Buffet Evening. Short summary of the Society and Museum's doings over the year followed by a pleasant social get-together. (£2 admission for those wishing to have food.)

Thursday 24th November: *The Malting Industry in Baldock* by Brendan King.

All meetings will be in the Community Centre, Simpsons Drive at 8pm. Non-members are welcome at a charge of £2.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, within this last year we have lost two more of our members. Mick Skinns, who attended every meeting in the last few years and always arrived very early to put the chairs out for us and Jean Etienne who, with her husband, Maurice, had been members for over 15 years but have not been able to come in recent years. Some time ago they donated an elect-convulsive therapy machine that was made in Baldock. Also we would like to thank the family of the late Dilys Pollard for naming the Society as a beneficiary of donations made in her memory, in all this totalled £145 and we have put it towards the cost of the new projector that we purchased for our talks.

May they rest in peace.

NEW MUSEUM DONATIONS

We have had some interesting additions to the collection in the last few months. A branch of the Kingsley family that had emigrated to Scotland donated quite a pile of interesting documents which included papers concerning a dispute between Baldock Urban District Council and Norton Fisheries over sewerage escapes and a series of correspondence about the creation of Baldock cemetery. A gentleman who worked as Moss's the grocers in White Horse Street in the '50s and '60s brought in some photographs and newspaper cuttings about the firm and another sent in the picture of Baldock Radio Station being built in November 1929 reproduced below.



STOP PRESS: MUSEUM CLOSED AGAIN

The recent downpour has once again flooded the basement of the Town Hall and the stench is very unpleasant so we have no choice but to close yet again and it might be weeks before we are able to open again. This is very disappointing so soon after all the effort put into getting it open in April and looking good again. We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause. Fortunately the collection is safe being stored upstairs.

