

Dear Members,

Poole Museum's first exhibition since Covid has opened, *Hardy's Wessex*, and all our members can get in to see it for FREE. We would love to hear what you think of the exhibition so please do complete the visitor survey provided.

Sadly, it does also mean that this is our last exhibition before we close for the NLHF project refurbishment work at Poole Museum, so you have until end of October to visit us and see the museum as it was.

There has been plenty going on over the last few weeks, read about events that members attended on pages 2 & 4 and read all about the extensive project works started to improve Poole Museum on page 5. You may like to know that the external works taking place will improve our carbon footprint by 25%, enough to watch 50 years' worth of television!

COFFEE BREAK DROP-IN'S – There are another couple of our get-togethers at the museum café and recent ones included a project update and a look around the heritage work that has taken place in Scaplen's Court.

Everyone is welcome, the next couple of dates are as follows and I would be thrilled to see you there:

- **Wednesday 20th July 2022 11.00am – 12.30pm**
- **Friday 2nd September 2022 3.00pm – 4.30pm**

Poole Museum Foundation would like to thank Dorset Buildings Group for their recent kind donation. The group enjoyed a guided tour of the museum and heard all about the project work taking place and have become members to continue engaging with us in the future, welcome to all of you.

There is still an opportunity for members to contribute an article or request a feature in a future newsletter, please do let me know, it is your newsletter so please do get in touch with me, it is always good to hear from our members.

Enjoy the sunshine -

Jenny

Membership Officer

Tel. 01202 126208 / info@poolemuseumfoundation.co.uk

Don't forget to follow Poole Museum Foundation and Poole Museum Services on Instagram, Twitter and Linked In.



Dorset Museum Exhibitions

Hardy's Wessex

Discover how Hardy felt about social tensions and inequalities and how he campaigned against animal cruelty.

21 - 29 July

Archaeology Festival

A variety of fascinating events and talks on leading experts in the field and from the field!



Hardy's Wessex

Venture into the ancient landscape to see how folklore seeped into Hardy's writing.



Hardy's Wessex

Uncover Hardy's links with the city and his views on religion and feminism.

Find out more on each museum's website.



BIRDS OF POOLE HARBOUR EVENT

Back in May, we had a superb 3-hour wildlife boat trip with Greenslades around the bay and through the Wareham river reed-beds, for members and friends from Poole Maritime Trust. We were joined by bird enthusiasts, Joe and Liv, from the charity Birds of Poole Harbour, both made sure that everyone onboard spotted all the wildlife on offer and enthusiastically taught us what to look and listen out for. We were very fortunate to see terns, avocets, oystercatchers, egrets, buzzards, cetti's warbler, with the sight of harbour seals and a grey seal being a real bonus.



Some of us managed to spot a distant Osprey flying and we heard about the thrilling Osprey breeding project. At the time, the team were celebrating the first hatching of Osprey eggs in 200 years on the south coast and a few weeks on, Ospreys O22 and CJ7 are doing a superb job of rearing 2 chicks that are due to fledge in about 4 weeks. You can follow their progress on Birds of Poole Harbour Twitter, Facebook or webpage: [The Poole Harbour Osprey Project - Birds of Poole Harbour](#)



Sadly, this trip was under-subscribed, and we really do wish to at least cover our costs when putting on events so if you have any suggestions of trips that you feel other members would be interested in, please do contact me.



Check out Poole Museum's

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS



THE ART OF INK

Saturday 9 July, 10:30am - 12:00pm

Explore Hardy's Wessex through pen and ink, with Dorset-based artist **Jessamy Keily**.

In this relaxed 1.5 hour workshop for beginners, you will learn all about dip pens and Indian ink, how they work and their history. There will be a chance to explore a variety of mark-making techniques and experiments before creating a final sketch or piece of handwriting that can be taken home and framed.

Scan QR code to book tickets



INTRODUCTION TO WOOD ENGRAVING

Saturday 3 September, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Robin Mackenzie is an elected member of The Society of Wood Engravers and has exhibited his work all over the UK. Wessex Museums commissioned Robin to create the Wessex map and vignettes which feature in the four Hardy's Wessex exhibitions.

This one-day workshop is perfect for beginners looking to learn a new technique, or for those who have done a little engraving and wish to progress their technique further.



Scan QR code to book tickets



POOLE MUSEUM
poolemuseum.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Art Fund



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VIP PRE-LAUNCH OPENING OF HARDY'S WESSEX



Recently, Poole Museum hosted a VIP Pre-Launch event for guests including PMF Trustees and members, just ahead of the public opening of the Hardy's Wessex exhibition.

After speeches by Rebecca Rossiter, Museum Manager, Sybil King of The Fine Foundation and our Poole Mayor, Councillor Trent, we got to take our first look at Wessex Museum's work to bring exclusive Hardy items to the museum for everyone to

enjoy. Items include the original oil painting *Weymouth Bay* by John Constable, a beautiful hand-crafted Victorian Valentine's card and Hardy's research notebook pages with his handwriting and drawings.

Thanks to the museum catering team, there were glasses of cold fizz and delicious canapes too. The exhibition has the support of Lord Julian Fellowes of West Stafford, DL, President of the Thomas Hardy Society.

He said: "After years of planning, I am delighted that this exhibition has finally come to fruition, displaying fascinating objects from the Thomas Hardy collection – many of which have remained unseen in museum stores for years.

"These personal items will help people come to know Hardy as a man, not just as a writer – a man who loved Wessex and so beautifully captured its landscapes and people in his writing."

Find out more about the exhibition taking place across all four Wessex Museums:

<https://www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/exhibitions-events/thomas-hardy-exhibition/>



OUR MUSEUM PROJECT NEWS

Scaplen's Court – storm damage

You will be pleased to hear that the repairs to the rear roof (after large tree fell in autumn storms) have been finished with a complete strip and re-tile of the roof, new guttering, down pipe and a damaged balustrade replaced. All in time for the start of the busy wedding season and thanks to the wonderful volunteers, the garden is looking beautiful too – open most days.

Scaplen's Court – funded by Historic England

The internal walls of two ground floor rooms have been cleaned, re-pointed and repaired to an excellent standard using authentic materials close to the original materials used. Woodwork has been cleaned, two open fireplaces strengthened, and an original wattle & daub wall repaired..



Public Realm (paving) – funded by Historic England, Poole BID and BCP Council

Eye-catching white Purbeck paving stones with grey stone interwoven have been laid in Sarum Street to match the paving in front of the museum and bring the two museum buildings together with a new accessible ramp leading to the entrance.

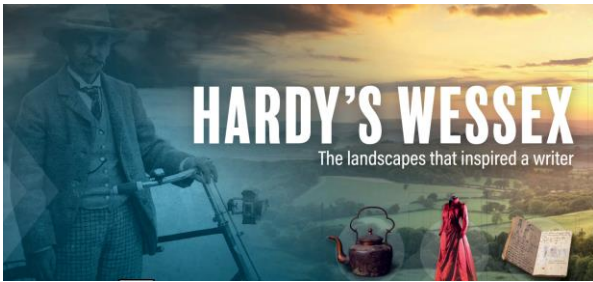
Salix Energy Efficient Fund Project – Public Sector

Both the Wool Hall and Oakley's Mill have now been scaffolded to provide a safe platform for energy efficient works, managed by Greendale, including roof repairs, new windows, wooden shutter restoration and solar panel installation hoped to be completed by mid-autumn. Colourful hoardings have been erected to highlight the museum still being open and the Hardy exhibition.

Museum Refurbishment – National Lottery Heritage Fund, BCP Council and other funders

Work continues to prepare the museum for closure at the end of October. The 4th floor offices have been emptied (office can now be found on ground floor in old workshop), the Poole History Centre has closed its doors with a smaller research function available and other areas continue to be sorted out with the main decant of the museum taking place this winter.

WHAT'S ON AT POOLE MUSEUM – SUMMER 2022



Until 30th October

Hardy's Wessex by Wessex Museums

Experience the romance and excitement of the coastline which inspired Thomas Hardy's writing featuring loaned items exclusive to Poole Museum

and an art installation from Arts University Bournemouth. Feel and see the difference between Hardy's romanticised views of love and war in his early life, to his portrayal of the realities of both in his later writings.

Friday 5th August & Friday 12th August 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Family Storytelling

Gather round for a storytelling adventure into the world of Hardy's Wessex with storyteller and musician Tim Laycock.

From stories of magicians on the heathland to the curious tale of Old William and the Bull, with music and songs from Thomas Hardy's childhood.

Join us on Poole Museums' third floor family area to enjoy these FREE family-friendly sessions.

Pre-booking required due to limited spaces. Suitable for up to 11 years.

Saturday 24th September 11.00am – 3.00pm

Step Back in Time: Hardy's Harvest

*Come out, 'tis now September, the hunters' moon's begun,
And through the wheaten stubble we hear the frequent gun;
The leaves are turning yellow, and fading into red,
While the ripe and bearded barley is hanging down its head.
The Ripe and Bearded Barley Traditional Song*

Join us at Scaplen's Court Museum and Garden to celebrate Harvest Festival inspired by our Hardy's Wessex exhibition. It is a time for feasting, celebrating and giving thanks.

Enjoy family themed craft and cooking activities and sample a recipe or two.

Free, no bookings required, donations are welcome but why not book an afternoon tea in the café for afterwards and these are pre-bookable by emailing museumhire@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

WESSEX MUSEUMS NETWORK EVENT



Poole Museum Foundation was represented at Wessex Museum's first 'in person' network event since Covid at Salisbury Museum. We received an update from Kristina Broughton (Partnership Manager) about their NPO [not for profit organisation] application with results due in October and the imminent addition of STEAM, Swindon to the collaboration of museums.

To find out more and keep up to date with partnership news, please visit:

<https://www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/>

??? THOMAS HARDY QUIZ ???

Test yourself on how much you know about one of our most famous Wessex authors

(answers can be found on page 8)

1. What year was Thomas Hardy born?
a) 1840 b) 1640 c) 1845 d) 1832
2. What is the title of Thomas Hardy's first published novel?
a) Under the Greenwood Tree b) Far from the Madding Crowd c) Desperate Remedies
3. What honour was bestowed upon Thomas Hardy in 1910?
a) Order of Merit b) Knighthood c) Peerage
4. What is the name of Thomas Hardy's home in Dorchester?
a) Clouds Hill b) Max Gate c) Greenway
5. What profession was Hardy training before he became an author?
a) Lawyer b) Architect c) Priest
6. When Thomas Hardy died in January 1928 of pleurisy, his heart was buried with his first wife, Emma, where were his ashes buried?
a) St. Peter's Church, Dorchester b) Stinsford churchyard c) Westminster Abbey

SHARE A PMF MEMBERSHIP WITH OTHERS

Trying to think of a thoughtful gift for family or friends? Why not buy them a year's membership subscription to join the Poole Museum community.

Annual membership subscriptions are frozen at:

Individuals = **£15.00**

Couple/family (at same address) = **£25.00**



All our memberships come with the following great benefits – just show the card for:

Poole Museum Rewards - **15%** off purchases in the Museum gift shop -

10% off purchases in the Museum café – Private Exhibition Views & Social Events -

Seasonal e-newsletters -

Free entry to newly re-opened Dorset Museum (Dorchester) & Wiltshire Museum (Devizes) -

Half-price entry to Salisbury Museum

<https://www.dorsetmuseum.org> www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk www.salisburymuseum.org.uk



As a charity supporting your local heritage museum, we are grateful for your support.

You can make donations in person on your next visit to Poole Museum or by our secure link:
<https://gateway.charityclear.com/button/zeotx5>

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Answers to Thomas Hardy Quiz

1. a) 2. c) 3. a) 4. b) 5. b) 6. c)