

March 2019

# Members' Newsletter

poole museum  
foundation

Dear Member,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you're enjoying this beautiful spring weather as much as I am! You will be pleased to know that I have been hard at work creating a full calendar of events for 2019, as you can see in the column to the right. It is my hope that we can continue to grow in both membership and community involvement throughout this year and beyond, and events like these will help to move us in the right direction.



As we're creeping a bit later into the year, it's already time to start thinking about renewing your membership! I'll be sending out renewal notices 30 days before your membership is due to expire to avoid any gaps so you can continue to enjoy all of the wonderful perks of being a Foundation member! As an added treat, when you renew in 2019 you'll receive a new membership card complete with loyalty stamps, meaning you can earn freebies from the Poole Museum gift shop and café just for visiting!

The next time you find yourself in the museum, please don't be shy! I'm always happy to have a chat in the café over a cup of coffee (and a slice of cake) and would love to get to know you better! Please feel free to get in touch at anytime by emailing me at [Christine.spader@poole.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.spader@poole.gov.uk) or give me a call on 01202 262 607. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Kind Regards,  
Christine

## Current Exhibition:

**26 January- 22 April:**

Calm Before the Storm: The Art of Photographing Lifeboats

## Next Exhibition:

**18 May- 29**

**September:**

Henry Lamb: Out of the Shadows

## Important Dates at a Glance:

**23 May:**

G&Ts in the Garden

**7 June:**

Henry Lamb  
Fundraising Dinner at  
Sandbanks Hotel

**15 July:**

Members Exclusive  
Garden Party and  
Private Henry Lamb:  
Out of the Shadows  
Exhibition View

**17 September:**

Curator Review

**25 October:**

VIP Guest Lecturer  
and Private Victoria  
and Albert: Our Life in  
Watercolour Exhibition  
View

**9 December:**

Members Exclusive  
Christmas Party

## Ritual and belief in Roman times: The story of the glass face

In the mid 1980s archaeologists working on a former Roman site in the Stour valley noticed something unusual in a pit.

First of all, a layer of shale was uncovered. Underneath this was a quern or mill stone, used for grinding corn by hand. Finally, a glass head was found, buried carefully at the base of the pit. Why had someone gone to the effort of burying the items in this way?



Glass medallions like this are from expensive drinking vessels that would have been used at feasts by wealthy Romans. The face shows Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, often shown with his friend Silenus, usually featured with a beard.

Medallions like this were lost when the cups were discarded, to be found by local people. It is likely that the new owner added their own meaning to the face. The method of burial shows great care and respect - was the burial a religious act?

This piece will be featured in the Wessex Museums Partnerships exhibition *Alchemy*. The exhibition features commissioned works from Ann Marie James inspired by pieces of art from each of the partner museums (Salisbury, Poole, Wiltshire and Dorset County). *Alchemy* will travel between all four museums from February through April of 2020.

**Guest Author**

Poole! What a great place! What a heritage! As a prehistorian specialising in the early farmers of northwest Europe it's the early times that interest me most. Back then today's open harbour was the confluence of several rivers joining the head of an estuary, while a lower sea-level than today meant the coastline was out beyond the harbour entrance. But what is now Poole was already the focus of maritime activity and cross-channel movements. A small stone axe found in 1900 at the South West Pottery Clay Pit at Parkstone is one import that originated in the Barant area of Mont Viso above Turin in the north Italian Alps, while an axe from Highfield Road, Moordown, originated at Sélédin near Plussulien in Brittany. Both items came to southern Britain around 4000 BC and stand at the head of traditions that are still with, and marvellously represented in Poole Museum by the beautifully preserved log-boat dating to about 300 BC, timbers from medieval and later ships, and of course cargo from the Studland Bay wreck and others too.

Poole Harbour was a gateway to Wessex and beyond, and was also an industrial centre in its own right well-known for its pottery made from the superb clays that outcrop on the surrounding heaths and islands within the harbour. Together, ships and pots provide powerful connections that start deep in the past and yet resonate strongly with us today. Poole Museum Foundation has the objective of helping protect and preserve Poole's heritage, but this is just the starting point because physical remains of the past provide inspiration and for the next generation and instil a very real sense of place. This is important because I believe we inherit the spirit of generations stretching way back into prehistory, and have a duty to pass it on to future generations so they can enjoy our heritage too.

Professor Timothy Darvill OBE  
Bournemouth University and Trustee of Poole Museum Trust

**Meet our Guest Author:** Professor Timothy Darvill



Timothy Darvill OBE is Professor of Archaeology in Bournemouth University and one of the founding Trustees of the Poole Museum Foundation. He is well-known for his work at Stonehenge, but also carries out research elsewhere in southern England, Wales, the Isle of Man, Germany, Malta, and the United States.

**“The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”**

**—William James**

Big or small, every gift in a Will we receive helps to support our mission to preserve, protect and share Poole's amazing heritage. For more information on how you can leave the gift of a lifetime, please contact me by telephone at 01202 262 607 or email [info@poolemuseumfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@poolemuseumfoundation.org.uk)

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