

# Retrospect **Extra**

Issue No 20, November 2024

Newsletter  
of the  
Friends of King John's Hunting Lodge

News, views and events



We can be nothing without you, our Friends and members of the former Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society. We always want to hear your views, comments, and suggestions for the future, so keep them coming in – send your ideas to Liz by email at [moorlandfm@btinternet.com](mailto:moorlandfm@btinternet.com) and contributions to editor Ian Tabrett at [tabrett.cross@btinternet.com](mailto:tabrett.cross@btinternet.com)

***In this extra edition, find details of the menu for our Christmas dinner and quiz at the Lamb Inn, Weare; the slightly amended programme of events for 2025; a catch-up on what happened in October but was too late for issue No. 19; and a tribute to Neville Brenchley***

## **OUR CHRISTMAS CRACKER...**



*Following last year's successful Christmas meal and quiz at the Lamb Inn, Weare, we have booked there again for 13 December. If you would like to attend please let Liz know asap by email (details above) with your menu choices. December 3 is the deadline.*

### **THE MENU**

#### **Starters – all at £6.95**

- Broccoli & Stilton soup, served with warm bread (v)
- Traditional prawn cocktail
- Farmhouse pate served with home-made chutney
- Baked goat's cheese with hazelnut crust & balsamic onions (v)

#### **Main courses – all at £15.95**

***All home-made and served with roast potatoes and vegetables of the day***

- Roast turkey with all the Christmas trimmings
- Baked salmon fillet with crème fraiche and greens
- Roasted cauliflower steaks coated in smoked paprika & topped with red pepper, olive & caper salsa (v)
- Boozy braised beef topped with horseradish dumplings

#### **Desserts – all at £6.95**

- Home-made chocolate & pear sponge served with ice cream (v)
- Christmas pudding & custard served with mince pie (v)
- Lemon meringue roulade served with cream (v)
- Raspberry sorbet with fresh strawberries & elderflower fizz (v)



**Lamb Inn allergy note: we use the following in our food preparation – celery; cereals containing gluten; crustaceans; eggs; fish; lupin; milk; molluscs; nuts and peanuts. Please ask if you need any help**

## 2025 DIARY DATES

Each month the venue for our meetings will be Cross Memorial Hall (CMH). We aim for all talks to start promptly at the time shown, so please arrive at least 10 minutes earlier. Each is free to paid-up members of Friends of King John's Hunting Lodge; visitors and non-members £5 per talk – so all the more reason to join! Please contact Liz Scott for details. Refreshments £2 for tea/coffee and cake.

**15 January: CMH 2.30pm, refreshments free!** Short presentations by Friends on a variety of topics including *Madeleine Roberts - The Yatman family and Cross Rifle club; Phil Thorne - History of Malta; Lester Durston – The Cheddar Valley, its water carriers and structures; Fiona Torrens-Spence – Emigration from the Allertons to America and Australia in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; John Page - Historic documents from Axbridge and District Museum Trust*

**19 February: CMH 2.30pm** The SS Great Britain - Brian Aston

**19 March: CMH 2.30pm** Ashton and Stone Allerton Windmills - Fiona Torrens-Spence

**20 March:** Current excavations on Mendip – Prof Jodie Lewis

This is the annual Barry Lane lecture to which we are invited at Westbury-sub-Mendip. A mini bus will pick up in Cross and Axbridge, with details to follow.

**16 April: CMH 2.30pm** - Somerset's Edwardian Homes - Yvonne Bell

**21 May: CMH 7.30pm** - The Origins of Nursery Rhymes - Sue and Phil Thorne

**18 June: A day trip to Watchet** with guided tour of the Radio Museum and chance to take in the other attractions around the harbour. Minibus details to follow

**16 July: Blackmoor Farm and Chapel** – visit to the Dyer family's 15<sup>th</sup> Century Grade 1 Listed Manor House with integral chapel. The house retains many of its period features including oak beams, stone archways and huge open fireplaces. Mini bus details to follow nearer the time.

**August:** No meeting.

**17September: CMH 2.30pm** – Historic postcards given to the Museum – John Page

**October:** Annual museum stewards' and Friends' outing to a National Trust property. Details later

**19 November: CMH 2.30pm** - Life, times and tragedy of a Somerset country lad - Ian Tabrett

**December:** Christmas dinner and quiz details to be confirmed

## OUR DAY OUT AT DYRHAM PARK...



A group of Trustees and Friends of King John's Hunting Lodge Museum enjoyed a visit to the National Trust's Dyrham Park house and gardens, the annual "thank you" visit to a NT property arranged by the Board of the Museum Trust. They filled the Frankie Howerd Trust minibus driven by Liz Scott and were met and greeted by retired HTV reporter and presenter Bruce Hocken (right). The group reported that the only delay on the journey was caused by the temporary blockage on the Cheddar Road in Axbridge, where they watched a team from the Highways Authority filling in a pothole – a new spectator sport! The fine weather meant they could see Dyrham Park and its gardens in their best light, and they appreciated Dean's efficient organisation – and the cream tea! All in all, the visit proved immensely enjoyable and left them looking forward to a similar excursion next year.



## ...AND A NIGHT IN WITH A MYSTERY GIRL AT THE MUSEUM

The group M & M Mysteries write: During a fresh, wet Autumn evening, for the first time we were able to visit and conduct a paranormal investigation at the King John's Hunting Lodge. Not only is the building a beautiful example of medieval architecture but for us as paranormal investigators, it was truly one of our favourite nights with evidence we couldn't explain.

We had our rem-bear [*a teddy bear with aerials fitted to react to the magnetic field\**] being activated by a suspected mischievous little girl, our estes method [*a paranormal investigation technique*] was relevant to the majority of our questions, and research after our visit we discovered extra information that was relevant to our second estes method. We had unexplainable k2 [*paranormal device which works off magnetic field*] reactions where all three of our k2 devices were reacting in the same way even though they were separated from each other but pointing towards the same area.

Overall, we at M&M Mysteries would be honoured to be able to return to this location as there are still many, many mysteries to uncover. We thank the amazing team here and consider ourselves lucky to see this lovely building during daytime and night-time.

*\*Paranormal terms above explained by museum manager Dean Packham. The investigators, with Trustee Paul Hughes in attendance, spent four hours at the museum and Dean says the second floor gave the best reaction, with a young girl playing tricks on them!*

## SAD NEWS FOR STATION HERITAGE CENTRE



Just four months after our highly-successful visit to the Sandford and Banwell railway station heritage centre comes the sad news that their chairman, Neville Brenchley, has died after a long illness. He was 86. Many Friends were able to chat with him while others toured the station and its valuable collection. This is how the trust announced his passing: *“On top of the past two tragic years of losses at the Centre, we have more sad news, our Chairman, Neville Brenchley, passed away earlier this month [October]. Neville was our first and only chairman to date. He was involved in setting up the Heritage Centre and its successful management until last year when he fell ill. He was a competent leader with a ready wit, was well liked and will be truly*

*missed by all, including regulars from the Retirement Village. It is now a case of rebuilding the team.”* Neville and his wife Lois have been driving forces in the development of both the Cheddar Valley railway walk, the station trust and Winscombe’s Millenium Green. The station heritage trust is seeking volunteers to help in the future. His funeral was held at the beginning of November.

## **A PROBLEM?**

**Several Friends have reported slight problems when downloading *Retrospect*. If you have suffered difficulties, please let us know – Liz’s email address is at the top of this issue**

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