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## Museum Musings

### Newsletter of Sleaford Museum Trust

**No.12 October 2009**

**Hello Friends!** Welcome to our twelfth Newsletter. We are delighted to welcome a new committee member, Jonathan Smith from Bourne, who not only helped us with the coffee morning but also brought along some of his collection of 300 bottles used in a Sleaford factory in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we all enjoyed the talk by Kathy Holland on the St Katherine's Project, Lincoln. We gained some further insight into the process of obtaining funding for such a large project and her slides showed the progress of the restoration of the former St Katherine's church so far. Kathy kindly offered to help us in any way she can in the future, with advice etc.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**, we held our Coffee Morning, a report follows in this newsletter. The next one will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010, in St Denys Church Room, 10 am to 12 noon.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November**, we will have an illustrated talk by Andrew Jackson on "Continuity and Change in Village Life in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries". This should be a very interesting talk. As usual, entry is free to members, and refreshments will be available. Non-members can join on the night, the fee to the end of our year end of April is £6 individual, £9 household, £12 corporate, and if you deduct the entry fee of £2, this is clearly excellent value!

**2010 Diary** – our Diary of events for 2010 will appear in our next newsletter.

#### Coffee Morning – held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October in St Denys Church Room

We had a fine but blustery day for the coffee morning. Our Curator, Dr Wendy Atkin, arranged a tabletop display of mainly domestic items from our collection, including a beautifully sewn sampler, an ornate sewing machine, a pair of ladies' shoes and a Sleaford Almanac, from Jonathan Smith's collection. The Almanac in particular raised a lot of interest and questions.

Jonathan, a committee member, from Bourne, was also kept busy answering questions about the sample of some of his collection of bottles from all over Lincolnshire, used by the firm of Lee and Green, which was founded at Sleaford by George Raynard Lee and Arthur Green in 1881. The mineral water bottling enterprise expanded to Spalding in 1886, Bourne in 1891 and Skegness in 1899. In addition to the bottling of superior aerated waters, the firm also specialised in the production of ginger beer, which gained Champion status. There is an article by Jonathan in Newsletter 7, October 2008 and more of his collection may be seen at Bourne Heritage Trust Museum.



Copy of photograph of Lee and Green [bottled water manufacturers of Carre Street, Sleaford] dray pulled by two horses with two men and a woman driver on board and cargo of crates of drink

We are aware that not everyone has access to a computer and so we are going to include items from the Sleaford Museum Trust collection in the newsletters from time to time. This time we have artefacts with medical links.

Below are two styles of cap worn by nurses at Rauceby Psychiatric Hospital near Sleaford during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were donated to the Museum Trust when the hospital was closed in 1997.



Dr Jane Brooks, Lecturer at the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at Manchester University informs me that nurses' paper caps were probably introduced in the 1970s – she remembers wearing one in the 1980s. Caps were phased out in the late 1980s/early 90s, though they are still worn in some private hospitals. When nurses wore cotton/lace caps they would have been taught how to launder, starch, iron and make them up probably as one of the first tasks they learnt. They were certainly expected to starch and make them up themselves, although Jane thinks that the hospitals may have laundered them.



Ceramic cream and blue inhaler inscribed 'Cash, Boots Chemists' on top and 'The Hygeinic Inhaler, Instructions for Use' and 'Boots Dispensing and Family Chemists' on the front, also outlines instructions for use.

### **NEW LEAFLET**

We hope you all liked our new leaflet, which was enclosed with the last newsletter, together with a joining slip. Please encourage friends and family to join us if you can, we believe we offer good value - the Committee have agreed that we will not increase the fees this year, so they remain as £12 individual, £18 household, and £24 corporate. These figures are easily divisible by 12 (months) and enable us to offer membership pro rata during the year, depending on the number of months left e.g. if you join now, you will only pay £6, (individual) £9 (household) or £12 (corporate). **Under-18s have free membership.** Your membership enables you to have free entry to meetings and to receive the bi-monthly newsletter, and also contributes to the development and conservation of the Trust's collection of artefacts.

**We need contributions for future issues of the newsletter, e.g. museum reviews if you have visited somewhere, articles, puzzles, pictures, postcards or information about local events or places of interest. Our virtual museum is online at [www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.sleafordmuseum.org.uk) and is constantly being updated and improved by our Webmaster. Sue Titmuss, Secretary, 01526 833964, 07949 116564, [sootit@btinternet.com](mailto:sootit@btinternet.com) welcomes all enquiries.**