

extraNATtimes

In Brief

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Bowled Over

We Remember
Back to the
Future

As we come to the end of our 2018-2019 Heritage Lottery, Sharing Heritage, Muck & Flea Club grant we share with you a selection of news articles from the last ten years. .

The Muck & Flea Club 140 YEARS

2018

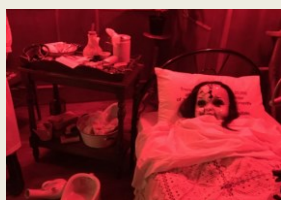
A steady stream of visitors came to the Nat on Sunday September 30th to enjoy our Animal Experience Day. It was a fabulous afternoon of fun for young and old alike informative and educational superbly delivered by Ash from Ranger Rob's Animal Experience.



Morbid Maud

A new house guest booked in to Mrs. Ibbitts' Haunted House over Halloween 2018.

A spooky spectacular time was had by young and old alike.



On the 18th August 2018, the Bacup Natural History Society & Museum received a National Lottery grant of £10,000 for a project called The Muck & Flea Club.

Awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Sharing Heritage Programme the project focused on telling the history of the Bacup Natural History Society as we celebrated our 140th Anniversary.



Fossil Fest

A steady stream of visitors joined us on February 3rd 2019 for our fabulous Fossil Fest. Individuals and families were invited to come and discover the mysterious world of fossils, explore the NAT's collection of local finds and receive expert evaluation on their own collections.

Children were invited to dig their own fossil to keep and take home and to use our 8 microscopes to view a selection of fossils, crystals and other specimens.

Naming our rather friendly dinosaur gave the chance to win a fabulous fossil hunting kit as well as enjoying being able to have faces painted.



We Remember

At 11 o'clock on Tuesday night the 4th August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. It was a time when fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, stood side by side with wives and children on the railway platforms of Bacup, Stacksteads and Waterfoot, waving off their menfolk as they left for a war described as one like no other, one that would end all wars, and one that would be over by Christmas.

From the NAT, 32 members joined the colours eager no doubt to do their bit. Of those 32, five would pay the ultimate sacrifice, and it was those men that we remembered on Easter Saturday 20th April 2019, when we unveiled our beautiful commemorative armed forces bench and silent soldier.

Funded as part of our recent Heritage Lottery, Sharing Heritage Grant this was for us the culmination of the work on WW1 we began in 2014 when we received our first WW1 Then and Now Heritage Lottery grant. Our President Mr Ken Bowden opened the proceedings before Pat Smith and Andrew Walmsley of Bacup Pride, (who look after the Newgate garden where the memorials are situated) did the Honour of unveiling the bench and statue for us.

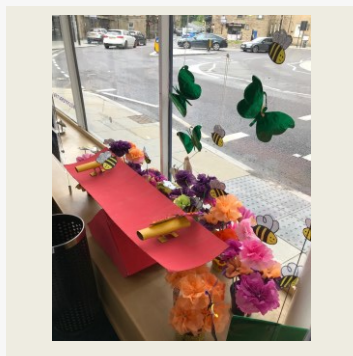
The names of the five men were read out by Scott Knowles our fabulous Meet the Tommy exhibitor and following a short speech by the Mayor Councillor Ann Kenyon, 10 year old Leo Stemp from the 2nd Rossendale Scout Band played a faultless rendition of the Last Post followed by a 2 minute silence and reveille. Guests were invited to then take refreshments inside the society rooms where we also had another fabulous Meet the Tommy exhibition. Later in the afternoon four members of the Britannia Coconutters visited the garden.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Sam Myerscough, Fred Horrocks, Frank Horrocks, Alexander Pounder, Willie Pickup.

Peace Parade Windows



The Bacup Peace Parade which took place on the 19th July 1919 was a thanks giving parade and service in the park to give thanks for the signing of the 1919 peace accord which signalled the official end to the Great War and to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

St James Street, Burnley Road, Market Street and Newchurch Road were all decorated with bunting and flowers, and the shop windows were decorated with either flowers or various military or religious models or those depicting life during and after the war.

We worked with local schools and children's groups on the Peace Parade and asked them to make their own models or flowers, funded by a small grant as part of our Sharing Heritage Lottery Funded project. The various models were placed in the shop windows two weeks before the Bacup & Stacksteads Carnival which was a centenary carnival of the Peace Parade.

Peace Parade Carnival



As part of our 1919-2019 Heritage Lottery Funded Sharing Heritage Grant we had a stall on the carnival ground on Sunday 30th June.

During the 1919 Peace Parade Thanksgiving Service in the park every school child was given a Peace Medal.

whilst we couldn't give 5,500 which was the number given in 1919 we did have a Peace Project 1919 -2019 commemoration medal created which we gave to children visiting us at the stall in the park.

We also gave out a revamped Walk Around Stubblee leaflet that was first produced in the late 1980's by the late Nat member and Fearn's High School teacher Mr John B Taylor.



Build A Bug Hotel

On Sunday 7th July we held a Build A Bug Hotel event. We went back to our roots and asked child visitors and accompanying adults to enjoy some microscope activity viewing various insect specimens.



Build A Bug Hotel

A selection of bug, bee, ladybird, bird and bat houses were on offer for the children to take home.



2008



New Facilities

The need for a new kitchen led to not only that being replaced but our antiquated toilet.



Memorial Service

Mr Norman Taylor former chairman died and a memorial service was held for him in July.

A Look Back Over The Last 10 Years

2010-2011

New President

President Arnold Barcroft resigned after six years to be replaced by Richard Catlow as President.

Mr. John B. Taylor

The Nat Committee was very sad to learn that John B Taylor had died. John died on the 16th May 2010, aged 69 a former teacher at Fearn High School he had been a member of Bacup Nat for many years. John published two books Stories in Stone and Date stones in Rossendale. John had collected various artefacts and stones from buildings all over Rossendale and had a collection of bricks manufactured in Rossendale. John was instrumental in setting up the wall of history situated in Newgate Gardens. Following his death a memorial to him was erected on the Path of History at Stacksteads.



2012

New Resource Area

Councillor Jackie Oakes officially opened the newly refurbished Lecture and Resource Area. The opening was followed by a brief potted history of the Bacup Natural History Society spanning 134 years, followed by light refreshments.

The lecture room refurbishments had been funded by an award from the Bacup Neighbourhood Forum. Work on the refurbishments had begun in June 2012, and one of the first major tasks for the members was moving the filing cabinets, chairs and cabinets into the middle of the room. After moving one particular cabinet members were amazed to find a hole in the wall and a room that no-one had ever seen before or had any knowledge of. The room's contents were the base of an old tippler toilet, a Belfast sink and stone trough and lintel along with two grave stones, why the last two items were ever placed in this room is anyone's guess.



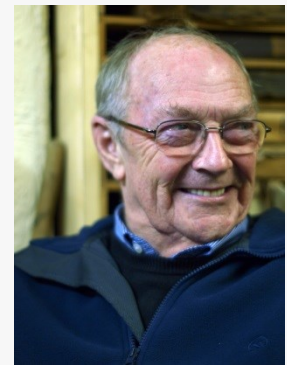
Mr. Ken Simpson

The Committee and Members of the Nat are very sad to share the news that our Museum Curator Mr Ken Simpson Passed away on Friday 13th July 2012 aged 86. Ken was dearly loved by all who knew him old and young alike, a very much love member of the Nat and will be very sadly missed.



Mr. John Bowditch

The Committee and Members of the Nat are very sad to share the news of the death of one of our much loved and valued members Mr John Bowditch aged 69, who passed away peacefully after a long illness on Monday 20th August 2012, in Somerset where he was staying with his sons. John had been a member of the Nat for several years serving on the Committee as Membership Secretary, up to a few months before he became ill. He spent many long hours producing our Royal Visit 1913 dvd.



The Bacup Camera Club

Many of the Nat members were part of what would become known as the Bacup Camera Club. Members had for many years shared their interests in photography. On the 2nd March 1920 Mr John Cook chaired a meeting in which he showed about 100 lantern slides.

The Camera Club was officially opened on May 18th 1920 by Councillor Baron who interestingly owned the Nat's rooms at 6 Yorkshire Street. The club was initially known as Bacup Naturalist Camera Club.

The Camera Club broke away from Bacup Nat in 2012 although the secretary Mr Donald K Entwistle remained a member of the Nat Committee.

2013

Bacup THI

In support of the Bacup Townscape Heritage Initiative the Nat was asked to help kick off what was known as Owd Bacup week 16th - 24th February 2013.

M.P Visit

Pictured with Callum, our youngest member of 2013, is our local MP Jake Berry. We were thrilled to finally welcome Jake and ex Rossendale Mayor Phillip Dunne to the nat after the original planned visit in September had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the recalling of Parliament and the debate on Syria. Jake spent the evening chatting to members and looking around the museum, library and new resource area taking the opportunity to use our newly installed broadband to tweet about his visit.



2014

WW1

Our main news and project for 2014 was the creation of a diorama representing number one ward at Fern Hill Hospital, Stacksteads. Funded by a World War 1 Then and Now Heritage Lottery bid.

Crime Walk

On Thursday 17th November we were very happy to provide refreshments for members of the public who had taken part in Bacup's first ever Owd Bacup Crime Walk.

The walk had been produced and carried out by our local community police officer P.C.Neil Gregson.



2016

Lottery Bid

As part of a 10,000.00 World War 1 Then and Now programme grant to mark the Centenary of the First World War, we will be creating Mrs Ibbitts 1917 shop and parlour. Through which we will tell the story of life in Bacup during 1917.

Bone Voyage

On the 17th February the Nat said goodbye to one of our oldest members when Blodwen our Neolithic skeleton returned to Llandudno. Blodwen who dated back to 3510 B.C was found on the Little Orme in Llandudno and donated to the Nat in 1896. She was in her late 50s or early 60s when she died and was about 5ft (1.52m).



2015

A G M

On Thursday 21st May 2015 the Nat held its annual general meeting during which two very special presentations took place. Mr Peter Hindle retired as the Nat's Treasurer after 4 years and after 16 years Mr Maurice Priest retired as Minutes Secretary. A further presentation took place on Thursday June 5th when Mr Donald Entwistle retired from the committee after over 50 years.



90 Years

Our oldest member Albert Marston celebrated his 90th birthday on the 9th December and one day later was presented with a commemorative mug by the Society's President, Ken F Bowden, in the company of many fellow members.

Committee Changes

Every Committee member has again worked hard during the year. After many years in the job, Ken Bowden is relinquishing his post of Syllabus Secretary after providing yet another season of enjoyable and instructive lectures, and a full programme for the year ahead. Christine Ormrod has put in a big shift as Treasurer, Minutes Secretary and editor of the Newsletter. Marian Connelly continues in her own inimitable way as both Chairman and Social Secretary, ably supported by Janet Entwistle and Eileen Parkes.

We are delighted that Peter Hargreaves is able to remain on the Committee along with new member (with a famous father) Barrie Taylor. Steve Walker is unfortunately leaving the Committee and will be missed, but, hopefully, will be around occasionally, joining the ranks of other hard working non-Committee members such as Tom Lord, and Jennifer Taylor.



Museum Re-decoration

The Museum has been freshened up with a coat of paint and the whole aspect improved by progressive initiatives in new cabinets, lighting and layout by Curator, Ken Burke, assisted by Alan Hughes, Arthur Baldwin, Ken Bowden and Ken Knight

2017

Mrs Ibbitts

Our first event of 1917 took place on Easter Saturday 15th April 2017, when we opened Mrs Ibbitts' 1917 shop and parlour. We were inundated with guests from the minute the doors opened at 10am to well after 3 when we finally had to close the doors.

Child visitors were given an old penny on entry which they could swap for old fashioned sweets, and were able to make their own Easter bonnets and enter them into our competition, the winner will be posted shortly along with the winners of our superb raffle prizes. Mrs Ibbitts' is based on Mrs Florence Ibbitts who ran a hat shop in Union Street and sent war comforts to soldiers, two information panels tell the stories of Mr and Mrs Ibbitts and the effect of rationing on the Bacup Home Front of 1917.



Up In Lights

Tom Lord and Ken Burke, significantly improved our public visibility by the erection of our two new illuminated signs, the artwork for the 'pub' sign being provided through the generosity of Paul Drogan of Superwide.



HLF Visit

On September 20th 14 visitors came to see us from the North West Branch of the National Lottery Funding including Ms Ros Kerslake, HLF Chief Executive and Sir Neil Cossons, the Head of Heritage Lottery Funding North West. The visitors were absolutely blown away with our latest project Mrs Ibbitts' 1917 shop and parlour which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Sir Neil Cossons tweeted "Love the Mrs Ibbitts Room" and he continued to say that if he wasn't at a meeting tomorrow he would be coming back to spend the day with us. Needless to say we were all thrilled to bits.

Incidentally Sir Neil Cossons was the former Director of the Science Museum in London and former Chairman of English Heritage. The visit to the NAT was mentioned on the internet by The HLF Chief Executive Ros Kerslake.

She said "We visited Pennine Lancashire in the North West, to meet people behind HLF projects and see the difference National Lottery funding is making. Pennine Lancashire is one of our priority areas for funding, and this has been a fascinating week seeing heritage projects from start to finish and the impact National Lottery investment is having on our communities". "It was really interesting to see just how much the small Bacup Natural History Museum is doing to explore the First World War thanks to a couple of £10,000 small grants made possible with money raised by National Lottery players. Nursing Heroes: The Fern Hill Story, and Keeping the Homes Fires Burning, are two innovative projects creating scenes from life at the local military hospital, to a recreation of Mrs Ibbitts' 1917 shop, stocking authentic produce grown by local children".

Mrs Ibbitts Haunted House

For the first time ever we opened on Hallowe'en - Tuesday 31st October from 4.30 until 8.00 pm. It was an experiment really and our chance to draw in some of our younger generation. We were unsure how many children would visit us but we were amazed at the number of visitors we received. Our thanks really should go to Wendy Watters who created our Mrs Ibbitts' spooky, scary dwelling and we had our very own resident vampire who managed to draw in several small children from the street!!

Take A Look Around

The Town Trail leaflet was launched at the Christmas events which children from Northern School and the 2nd Rossendale Scouts group had drawn up after their research into Bacup shops in 1917 and the same shops in 2017. This was part of the WW1 'Then and Now' Programme'; the leaflets are fantastic, a lot of work has gone into them and they are available in the NAT

2018



Facebook Group

We have recently created our own new group on Facebook called appropriately 'Bacup Natural History Society and Museum'. It is listed in the groups on Facebook and is easy to join the group after submitting a request to do so. We are in the midst of uploading a huge number of photographs and our members are going from strength to strength.

Mrs Ibbitts' Christmas .

On Saturday December 1st 2018, we held our second Sharing Heritage event. Mrs Ibbitts' 1918 Christmas. Mrs Ibbitts' shop and parlour told the story of Bacup during it's first peace time Christmas in over four years, whilst the Fern Hill hospital room played host to an exhibition on the Spanish flu and its effects on civilians and returning soldiers. Our little visitors were invited to make Christmas baubles and cards whilst the grown ups enjoyed a mulled wine and mince pie.

Bowled Over

The Society once again had occasion to support our good friends at Bacup Cricket Club on the 23rd February when a PhD student, Tom Dalrymple, spent the afternoon at the NAT interviewing and reminiscing about the halcyon era of Everton Weekes with two of his contemporaries at the club, Stanley Hall and Dick Dunton. They were accompanied by Bacup Cricket Club Chairman, Neil Wilkinson and Lancashire League researcher, Brian Haywood. Tom Lord took the opportunity of displaying to them some of the club's memorabilia in our possession. Members may recall Mr Haywood visiting us last year as part of his research work.



Back to the Future

We had a fantastic day on Easter Saturday even though the weather was cold and rainy. We had a steady stream of visitors all day to see our most recent exhibition "Back to The Future Technology Exhibition". The exhibition featured early cameras, projectors, games, telephones, radios and computers and compared them to today's modern technology. We held a huge chocolate raffle as always and we say thank you to Morrison's and B & M Stores of Bacup who provided us with lots of Easter eggs which contributed to the raffle prizes.

