

Fairlynch Museum

Get in touch: (01395) 442666



PC Simon-Evans with Fairlynch Museum stewards in March 2011

2017: A Golden Year for Fairlynch Museum and Arts Centre

"The best of Budleigh Salterton is on display in Fairlynch," believed Sue Lawley, journalist and former local resident. "Every time I walk past or go inside, I am reminded of why this town is so special."

With its thatched roof and turret, arched Gothick windows and beautiful garden, this quirky 200-year-old dolls' house of a

building, Grade II listed, is one of Budleigh's landmarks. Once inside you'll find, like the 5,000 visitors who are welcomed annually, that Fairlynch is so much more.

Set up in 1967 to depict the local history of the town and the villages of the Lower Otter Valley, the Museum provides

a fascinating insight into the varied life of the area. Radioactive pebbles and Jurassic Coast fossils are displayed along with rare and beautiful costumes and lace. One section is devoted to the extraordinary career of Sir Walter Raleigh, born in nearby East Budleigh: high points in the Museum's 50-year history include displays on two occasions of

Your Lower Otter Valley organisations



Children from St Peter's C of E Primary School on a visit



The front of the museum



One of Fairlynch's collection of Victorian Costumes

Millais' Pre-Raphaelite masterpiece depicting the boyhood of Queen Elizabeth I's favourite courtier.

In the Local History Room, with its vast collection of documents and photos, an exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of the closing of the local railway. Also on permanent display is work by local artists, including amusing portrayals of Budleigh characters by the painter and author Joyce Dennys.

Fairlynch has been much praised for the high standard of its annual exhibitions; in recent years they have been devoted to former local residents ranging from Murray Levick, the doctor on Captain Scott's last Antarctic expedition, to figures from the

world of entertainment such as the film star Belinda Lee and the comic actor Reg Varney. A major exhibition in 2017 pays tribute to Admiral G.W. Preedy CB, Captain of HMS Agamemnon, the Royal Navy ship involved in the first successful laying of the 1858 transatlantic telegraph cable.

The Museum is keenly aware of the educational aspect of such displays and exhibitions and we welcome visiting school groups.

LIKE TO HELP?

The Museum always welcomes new volunteers, please call 01395 442666.

Continued overleaf

Community interview



30th anniversary with Museum co-founders Priscilla Hull (left), Joy Gawne (right), Budleigh Town Mayor (1997) Lynda Evans looks on.

It all takes time, effort and money of course. Fairlynch has been volunteer-run since its founding in 1967, and is administered as a charity. Helpers in a range of areas, including stewarding, are always needed: our enthusiastic team of stewards is one of the Museum's big attractions.

In a town with its own literary festival, Fairlynch would welcome would-be or professional authors who might enjoy writing about aspects of our local area or interesting residents of the past while benefiting the Museum. Some of our exhibitions have resulted in publications as diverse

as the first-ever biographies of the celebrated Victorian marine sponge expert Henry Carter FRS, and of the star of 'The Rag Trade' and 'On The Buses'. These booklets are on sale in the Museum shop.

Free admission was introduced in June 2012, and visitors are encouraged to make donations. The picturesque but ancient building is in constant need of expensive maintenance, and our Friends of Fairlynch are much appreciated for their financial support. Please do consider joining them, especially if you are a local resident, and perhaps



Fairlynch's polyphon, originally from the King's Arms, Otterton

think about ways in which you might like to be involved in an institution which is such an important part of life in our corner of East Devon.

Fairlynch Museum is at 27 Fore Street, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NP

Museum opens 14 April until 29 September 2.00-4.30pm daily, except Mondays.

Tel: 01395 442666

For more information please see the website:

www.fairlynchmuseum.uk

What makes the Budleigh area a really great place to live in is the community spirit which still survives in force, even in this 21st century. There's such a myriad of organisations across the lower Otter valley area community, busy with all sorts of activities from recreation to charitable - Editor.

YOUR ORGANISATION FEATURED?

Lower Otter Valley residents want to know about your organisation, be it a club, society, or charity. Contact the diary on: 01395 513383 jingles@sidmouthdiary.co.uk