



## Friends and Volunteers Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. This is a rather special edition for as you will see we have been shortlisted for a national award. This is for our work on the First World War project, 'Unity and Loyalty'.

The exhibition is coming to a close, so when the Friends discussed plans for the forthcoming year we felt our focus should be on something a little lighter. The seventies just seemed to fit the bill.

### Unity and Loyalty – Shortlisted for an award



We have just heard the exciting news that the Friends have been shortlisted in the Museums and Heritage Show 2016 "Awards for Excellence", in the volunteers section, for the many hours given to the Unity and Loyalty exhibition.

This award is the Oscars of the museum world. For a small museum like ours to be

shortlisted is truly an achievement in itself. All our friends and volunteers deserve a pat on the back for the many hours at the desk manning the exhibition, for the re-enactors who made the opening such a special event and the time spent researching the Red Cross hospital.

I have heard nothing but positive comments from our visitors and I know some have come from the furthest reaches of the Country to see the exhibition. It is open until 15<sup>th</sup> April so please tell your friends and family if they haven't already visited.

The winners of the awards will be announced on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, please show your support by liking our posts on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChippenhamMuseum>

### Stained Glass Art work

The museum celebrated its fiftieth birthday in 2012 and the Friends decided to commission a piece of stained glass art work to present to the museum to celebrate this landmark. We have decided to make this project a priority this year and will be concentrating our efforts for the final fund raising push. More about this later in the year.

## Chippenham in the 1970s

Do you remember the trim phone, tank tops and tubular bells all popular in the 1970s? The Friends of Chippenham Museum think it is time we got together to remember and celebrate that decade. For those who grew up in Chippenham what was the town like? What shops were there? What was it like before



Pewsham and Cepen Park were built? If you are new to the town what did you do in the seventies and what did you wear?

We will be kicking off our seventies nostalgia at our coffee afternoon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please come along with your memories. We plan to have a number of these afternoons and would eventually like to host a Chippenham in the Seventies exhibition for the museum, so please come along and join us.

## Research Projects

Unity and Loyalty is more than the WW1 Exhibition in the Yelde Hall. The Friends of Chippenham Museum have been researching each member of staff at the Red Cross hospital, from kitchen assistant, laundry worker to the commandant. We plan to publish the results of this research on our new website <http://friendsofcm.org>. Please look out for it. You may be surprised to see a relation listed.

## Dates for your diary

**1 April** - 70s themed coffee afternoon. Bring your photos! – Education room, the museum

**9 April** – Dark Horse Writers' Group- Monologues based on the characters researched in Unity and Loyalty exhibition.

**15 April** - Close of Unity & Loyalty – Celebrate a successful exhibition with a volunteer's party. 1.00 pm. Bring a plate of food to share. Yelde Hall will then close for refurbishment.

**17 May** – 'From Old Chapel field – the artist Robin Tanner at home in Kington Langley

**18 May** - Museums and Heritage Show 2016 "Awards for Excellence"

**8 June** - Talk: Part 3 of Unity and Loyalty series – 'More beds needed'. Ray Alder (planned for the Town Hall TBC)

**12 June** - 'Fun in the Park' – John Coles Park – Queen's Birthday- Friends stall

**23 July** – 'Medieval Day' – medieval village and re-enactment in the Market Place and museum