

# The Friends of Henfield Museum

March 2015

## Treasures of the Museum



This portable dispensary (*donated by Dr Allen of Cowfold*) was the forerunner of the doctor's "black bag", still remembered by many and used by the GPs when making home visits. This box was in use in the early 1900s, possibly by Dr Arthur Holt of Henfield who had his practice and surgery from 1908 to 1945 in Henfield High Street on the site of the present Barclays Bank. It is stoutly constructed to withstand journeys in open pony and trap over rough roads in all weathers. Scratches on the lid suggest that it has also been used to stand on.

The contents look imposing and conjure up thoughts of magic potions and included opium and cannabis used as painkillers and sedative. The doctor was a revered and respected person but in truth rather limited in his ability to influence the course of an illness. However kindness and sympathy do help when you are unwell. Having asked professional advice on the efficacy of these medicines it appears that most are either purgatives or aperients. Here are some of the ones in the box:

*Pil Colog et Hyoscyamus* Hyoscyamus is from the deadly nightshade family (akin to belladonna) Aperient and antibilious.

*Acid Gallic.* Classed as a treatment for inflammation, as an aperient, for griping and infantile diarrhoea. Often given with hyoscyamus and then used for 'night sweats', an astringent and 'promotes action of the liver

*Pilcol chysey et podophyllin.* Ghastly purgative. Used for 'jaundice from supression, torpid liver and in dropsy.

*Pil Rhei Co.* Basically an aperient with aloes and rhubarb. Also for 'costivness' which translates to constipation.

*Scill ae P Digit*  
'dropsy' or heart  
used widely today



Squills and extract of foxglove and treated failure. Digitalis, in a refined form, is still for heart failure.

*Ol.crotonis* Croton oil as a drastic purgative

*Zinc sulphate* Emetic

*Calomel Mercurous chloride.* Very poisonous but used as a purgative and for 'infantile teething' At your peril !

*Camph lupulin et hyoscy.* Sedative and hypnotic (send you to sleep) when opium not tolerated.

*Hydrag c Creta* Basically mercury (or mercurial derivative) and chalk. Used as a purgative in children. When mixed with Dovers powder, which was Ipecacuanha and Opium, used for syphillis

"After looking at all these I can only add long live the NHS and modern pharmacy" (quote John Willis—and many thanks for his help and research for this article)



Miniature Dispensary  
Tasteless Medicine  
By Royal Letters Paent  
Designed by Dr E A Kirby

## From the Chairman

Wynn Saunders

### Why we have been formed

It has been my wish for many years to have a "Friends of the Museum". This has now come to fruition. I would like to thank every one who has shown interest in becoming a friend. The aim is to promote the museum and encourage many more visitors. We need to improve donations, to support the parish council museum committee and in the future maintain the museum.



As 'friends' we can apply for grants to improve our facilities. Already the lighting has been improved. We have a notice board in the centre of the village by the bus shelter; we have new display boards in the museum. I would

welcome any suggestions of what you would like in the museum and the way forward.

We hope to visit other museums as a group, have talks on historical subjects by invited speakers, share knowledge of how different museums are administered. I think that many people who come to live in the village are not aware of our museum, even those who have lived here for many years.

We are always looking for helpers to do a duty when the museum is open. Let the curator, Mr Alan Barwick know if you are able to assist us in any way.

I hope our first AGM on 18 March will be the new start of the successful group that will carry on into the future.

## Profile of the Curator

Alan Barwick

Alan Barwick's family connections with Henfield go back to 1887, when his great great grandfather became a minister, at the then Congregational Church in the High Street. Alan was born at 2, Myrtle Cottages, Weavers Lane, in January 1950, and has lived in the village all his life. Alan attended the infants school in Nep Town, the juniors school on Henfield Common and Steyning County Secondary Modern School.

He left school aged sixteen in 1966 and was initially apprenticed as an engraver but he left to become a trainee draughtsman at the North West Sussex Water Board in Horsham. On day release there he obtained his Ordinary National Certificate in civil engineering in 1972. He went on to Brighton Polytechnic, and obtained a degree in civil engineering in 1976. He spent the rest of his working life as a design engineer, and later a project manager with what had become the Southern Water Authority.

In the 1970s and 1980s his leisure time was taken up with motorcycle sport, competing in grass track racing and trials riding. He was a member of the Brighton & District Motorcycle Club for about twenty years, ten as a committee member. A keen table tennis player, he and has played competitively for over thirty years, and is chairman of the Worthing & District Table Tennis Association. He is a keen jogger, and one of the original 1990 Henfield Joggers.

He developed an interest in local history collecting old postcards, and was one of the founding members of the Henfield History Group. In 1991 he was appointed Assistant Curator to Marjorie Carreck at Henfield Museum, and later Curator. Alan is co-author of *Henfield a Sussex Village*, editor of *Henfield Through the Lens of Marjorie Baker*, and has given many talks on Henfield to local groups. During his long association with the museum he has helped steer it to its present position as an 'accredited museum.'

# History of Museum

The inspiration for Henfield Museum started with the private collection of Miss Alice Standen in the 1920's which was added to by her niece, Miss Lucie Bishop, a long serving Parish and District Councillor. By 1948 a large collection of domestic bygones, costumes, paintings, photographs, farm implements, and many other things had been acquired. This was housed in two cupboards on the upstairs landing in the Assembly Rooms (now Stevens, Age Concern and Eyecare). The collection was added to over the years following various exhibitions in the village and increased so much that it became apparent that larger premises should be sought. Miss Bishop did try to raise sufficient funds to purchase the 'Cat House' in Church Street but to no avail.

However in 1972 plans were initiated to open a museum in the proposed new village hall. A public appeal for objects was very successful and by 1974, when the hall was opened additional display cases were obtained to house the now increased collection and larger items such as the Penny Farthing Bicycle and the One Man Ambulance could be displayed for all to see. In 1991 under the auspices of Marjorie Carreck as Curator and Alan Barwick, as Assistant Curator the museum applied to become a Registered Museum which necessitated cataloguing approximately 9,500 objects in the Museum both in paper and computer form. By 1993 it was recognised that the Parish Council Offices and the Museum were too small and the entrance foyer at the front of the building was rebuilt providing the current larger museum.

The Parish Council is looking to residents of Henfield to protect the Museum by setting up a friends group to take over responsibility for the running of the Museum in the future.

## Museum Activities—can you help?

There are a number of ways that you can contribute to the good running of the museum. In particular:-

- Helping with care of collections and displays and looking after items,
- Inputting records
- Oral History
- Working with schools
- Or perhaps you have a skill or interest that could be used to benefit the museum.

If you would like to help please complete the form below.

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### **THE FRIENDS OF HENFIELD MUSEUM**

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**TEL NO:**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Please return the completed form to The Curator, c/o Henfield Parish Council Offices

## *What's coming up*

### **HENFIELD GARDEN AND ARTS WEEKEND 13/14 JUNE 2015**

The museum will have a special displays for this covering

- Glasby's stained glass
- Peter Spear's wood turning
- Paintings of Henfield from 19th and 20th centuries

Help is needed in manning the museum for these two days. If you would be able to help please contact Alan Barwick at the museum.

**NEWSLETTER:** This newsletter depends on contributions from the Friends of Henfield Museum . Please send to Julia Simpson ([jbs@backsettown.demon.co.uk](mailto:jbs@backsettown.demon.co.uk)) or Vita Barnes ([vita.barnes@btinternet.com](mailto:vita.barnes@btinternet.com)), (Editors)

Opening times:

Monday	1000 to 1200
Tuesday	1000 to 1200
Wednesday	1430 to 1630
Thursday	1000 to 1200
Friday	1000 to 1200
Saturday	1000 to 1200 1430 to 1630

Other times by arrangement.

Not open Bank Holiday weekends or between Christmas and New Year.



For more information or enquiries regarding The Friends of Henfield Museum activities please contact:

Rose Sharp      The Secretary,  
The Friends of Henfield Museum  
Email: [rosesharp2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosesharp2003@yahoo.co.uk)

See more about Henfield Museum on the Henfield Hub  
<http://www.henfieldhub.com/henfield-museum>

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