



The Georgian Times



Newsletter for Friends of the Cockermouth Georgian Fair
Number 6, January 2010

Welcome again to The Georgian Times, our regular newsletter sent to all Friends of the Cockermouth Georgian Fair. What was initially intended to be a quarterly newsletter is already on edition 6, even though the first edition was only in May last year. We want to make sure that our Friends are among the first to know what we are planning and this newsletter gives us that opportunity.

The newsletter is intended to keep you informed about the activities of the Organising Group and the proposals for the next Georgian Fair, scheduled for 1 May 2010. It will give you a line of communication to put your own ideas forward or to offer help should you choose to do so.

Anne Meeghan, Chair, GFOG

The 2010 Georgian Fair

At our January meeting, following support received, we decided that we will hold the Georgian Fair on 1 May this year, as we had originally planned. To hear or read of people saying "Let's make the 2010 Georgian Fair in May a springboard for the town" is extremely heartening. Our patrons, Lord & Lady Judd, the Cockermouth Chamber of Trade and many individuals have expressed the hope that the Georgian Fair will go ahead and we intend to make it happen.

We envisage that a number of the venues may change this year, but will work together with all interested parties to make sure that the events go ahead, somewhere in the town.

The organisation of this year's event is not going to be straightforward, and the task ahead of us is challenging, but with the support we have received already and more which I am sure will be forthcoming, we are determined to make the Georgian Fair a day for us all to enjoy.

Maypole dancing

In preparation, the maypole which will be used for the maypole dancing on 1 May is currently being refurbished. We also have a practice maypole and have held sessions for teachers to learn how to teach maypole dancing.

Pillory

Pupils at Cockermouth School have made a pillory for us. Our original intention had been to give it its first outing at the lights switch-on in November, but clearly that was not to be. We will make sure that it is on display and being used - any volunteers to stand in it? - on 1 May.

Costume-making workshops

You may also have seen the posters for our costume-making workshops, to be held fortnightly on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm at the Kirkgate Centre from 2 February onwards. These are at no cost to participants, and we hope that all our Friends, and as many townsfolk as possible will dress up for the event. It doesn't have to be an intricate

costume - we have suggestions and simple tips for everyone to make their own costume.

Please feel free to come along. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact Bridget Hilton, whose telephone number is at the end of this document.

Other matters:

I am sure that you will be aware that Wordsworth House was a victim of the November floods. Undaunted, however, Alex Morgan, Acting Custodian, assures me that they will be re-opening as usual on 13 March.

This is what she has sent me:

As a child, William Wordsworth loved to play and read on the banks of the River Derwent, which flows past the famous terrace walk. In his masterwork The Prelude, he fondly remembers it as a "murmuring stream". On November 19, that same river filled Wordsworth House's garden, cellars, visitor reception and shop.

Pay a visit this season and see how the damage has been restored. Watch the Trust's

skilled masons rebuilding William's terrace. A new exhibition details the dramatic events in Cockermouth on the day of the flood, the amazing rescue operation and tells how Wordsworth House and the town as a whole have fared since. Follow the flood trail around the house and garden to find out exactly how high the water reached.

Wordsworth House is offering free entry throughout the season to Friends of the Georgian Fair, and on May 1, entry will be free to anyone with a CA13 postcode.

We are very grateful to Wordsworth House for making this kind offer to Friends of the Georgian Fair, and I'm sure that, like me, you will wish to take them up on this offer and have a look at this new exhibition.

Cockermouth Georgian Fair Organising Group - Contact List:

Please feel free to contact any of us if you wish to join us or have any ideas which you think that we can put in place.

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