

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

Editors: Norman and Angela Stone

THE STONE HOUSE
MARKET PLACE
DEDDINGTON
BANBURY
OXON OX15 0SD

10 February 1992

Mr W Hunt
Secretary
Deddington Charity Estates
Mayfield
Earl's Lane
DEDDINGTON Oxon

Dear Bill

RE: DEDDINGTON MUSEUM

Labelling of exhibits

In my opinion, labelling needs to be informative, interesting, brief, visually attractive, and consistent, I suggest a standard format along the following lines.

1. BRIEF, ACCURATE, DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS ON SHOW
2. BRIEF INDICATION OF DONOR OR OTHER SOURCE
3. BRIEF BACKGROUND OR QUALIFYING NOTE RELATING TO THE EXHIBIT
4. DATE OF LABEL

The attached draft captions show what I have in mind.

You may recall that I suggested the Craft Group might be willing to design and produce suitable labels. Alternatively, several people in the village have a desk-top publishing capability to produce professional-standard work, while Ken Langstaff has had a lot of experience of hand- and transfer-lettering. Plenty of options - the important thing is to get people involved.

Organisation of exhibits

It is early days yet, with items coming in spasmodically and haphazardly, but even so it may not be too soon to be thinking about how to organise the exhibits. One obvious way is simply to follow date order, with or without historic highlights; others are by subject - religion, education, architecture, sport and so on; by trade, past and present, from making axles to assembling jewellery; by activity - shopping, gardening, relaxing; or in any other way that gives purpose to the displays and guidance to visitors.

/continued...

Weathervane

I like the idea of a weathervane on the Town Hall roof. I don't know of a local craftsman but enclose some leaflets from *Good Directions* (please return) in case you haven't seen them. The combination of 'aged' copper and gold leafing seems particularly attractive.

Friends

I suggested to Jo Mace that starting some kind of movement like *Friends of the Town Hall* could help to generate interest and pride in looking after one of Deddington's public buildings. Maybe *Friends of the Museum* is a better idea - or perhaps the two could be combined in some way. You can count me in - and also put me down as a potential ~~invigilator~~ invigilator in due course.

Security

We spoke briefly about this. I think you need the best professional advice on what to do, and three competitive quotations on what to pay.

General tactics

Although it means drawing up tight specifications and may take extra time, it really is best to get competitive quotes for any work carried out for the Museum.

A final thought

Have you contacted the Local History Librarian, Oxford (Deddington Librarian has the details), and the Curator of the Banbury Museum? The more interest, support and advice we can get from experienced people the better.

Yours sincerely

Norman Stone

encs: draft captions No 1 and No 2
leaflets on weathervanes

DRAFT CAPTION NO 1

UNDATED PHOTOGRAPH, MUCH REDUCED, OF A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF DEDDINGTON DRAWN BY JOSEPH WILKINS ABOUT 1875. THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ORIGINAL ARE UNKNOWN.

PRESENTED OCTOBER 1991 BY MR EDDIE LINES, A TRUSTEE OF DEDDINGTON CHARITY ESTATES.

JOSEPH WILKINS (1820-91) WAS A SIGNWRITER, CARTOGRAPHER AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ARTIST, SELF TAUGHT, WHO LIVED IN THE STILE, DEDDINGTON. IN 1850 HE MARRIED ANN ENGLISH. BETWEEN 1851 and 1867 THEY HAD NINE CHILDREN, OF WHOM THE LAST SURVIVOR, JULIA MATILDA SKUSE (NEE WILKINS), DIED IN 1954, A MONTH SHORT OF HER 91st BIRTHDAY.

WILKINS'S WORK INCLUDES VIEWS OF CLIFTON, WATERCOLOURS OF THE PARISH CHURCH, AND TWO BIRD'S EYE VIEWS OF DEDDINGTON. ONE, FROM THE SOUTH, IS IN BANBURY MUSEUM. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE THE OTHER, A VIEW FROM THE EAST, HAVE FAILED, AND, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS ALL THAT REMAINS.

DATE

DRAFT CAPTION NO 2

COVER AND EDITORIAL EXTRACT FROM THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF *THE DEDDINGTON NEWS*, THE VILLAGE MAGAZINE OF DEDDINGTON, CLIFTON AND HEMPTON. COVER ARTWORK BY KEN LANGSTAFF.

PRESENTED SEPTEMBER 1991 BY THE EDITORS OF *THE DEDDINGTON NEWS*, ANGELA AND NORMAN STONE.

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DATE