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CANTERBURY
HISTORY
FOUNDATION

Foundation's 2008 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation will be held
on Thursday 12 June
beginning at 5.00pm in the lounge of the
University Staff Club, Ilam Road.
A further notice, the President's annual report, and a financial
statement will be sent to members in May.

CHF members get first chance to book for a local history tour afternoon

A Cust Museum visit on Sunday 18 May will be guided by our programme convener, Frieda Looser, and hosted at Cust by the museum's founder and curator, Bernard Kingsbury.

This tour by coach will begin in Christchurch from Okeover, off University Drive, at 1pm. It will include a short introduction to the village to demonstrate how the museum relates to its setting. We will also pay a visit to the Anglican church, St James's-on-the-Cust, a 142-year-old building that has been furnished with many visible connections with the early runholders and generous parishioners. A short organ recital by Mr John Dodgshun has been arranged. Afternoon tea will be served.

Mr Kingsbury has reported greater outside interest and several coach visits to the museum after its collections and archives were widely noticed when the A C Rhodes History Medal was presented to him last year. This added satisfaction at the outcome of the award encouraged the Foundation's executive to promote our own visit to the museum and its interesting district.

Five early sheep runs, Springbank, Murphy's, Eyrewell, Fernside, and Carleton had Cust as a natural centre. The village was once the site of two flour mills (the Gardner mill was one), and bakeries, blacksmiths, carpenters and joiners, and other local services and suppliers to small farmers, and later to Eyrewell forestry workers.

Like other Canterbury small towns, it has much changed; but the museum has recovered the history of earlier times and families in its exhibits and extensive archives.

A flier and order form accompany this newsletter and an item about St James's is on page 3. Please book quickly for what we expect to be a popular excursion.

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Newsletter
April 2008

2008 Jim Gardner Lecture—3 August

Dr John Wilson will give this year's lecture, drawing on his long and much-applauded research and writing of local histories. He will report on his recent exploration of the history of Addington, its people, industries and institutions, using this to illustrate his ideas about the place of local history in our society.

The trials, trails, surprises, and pleasure in preparing this and other books will remind his audience of the diversity and importance of Addington's past and its transition to a new era.

Local Lives: Recovering an Addington Community is the title of his lecture and the event will begin at 2.30pm in the auditorium of Christchurch Girls' High School on Sunday 3 August.

It will also be the occasion for the award of the 2008 A C Rhodes History Medal to honour long

and significant contributions to the study and appreciation of history in Canterbury, particularly work that has excited interest in history in the wider community. As usual, nominations for the award will be received by the Foundation secretary until 30 April and referred to the awards committee for its recommendation.

Five years ago the Foundation awarded the first Rhodes Medal to John Wilson. This recognised his nineteen years as editor of *Historic Places*, and a succession of books and articles on local history and biography. He has done much notable work since then on Christchurch buildings and heritage issues, on the Civic Trust, and such popular, illustrated topics as vintage tractors.

Dr Wilson's Addington research began when he received the Community Historian grant in 2006.

Richard King's last CUP books

The Foundation has lost a good friend. The sudden death last month of Richard King, managing editor of Canterbury University Press, has been generally recognised as a saddening loss to careful editing, high-quality book design, and successful publishing. Richard was professionally and personally encouraging to historians among his many authors.

One of his last completed books, and the last he saw come back to him from the printers and binders, was launched a few days after his death. It is Pat Unger's biography of Bill Sutton, Canterbury artist and, for 30 years, a teacher at the university's School of Fine Arts. This is a portrait of the artist as a boy showing remarkable skills, as a student, as a productive and technically accomplished and versatile painter, as traveller, and as an elder but far-from-stuffy statesman in the art world. It is also a brisk, sometimes sharp look at the Christchurch scene using comments and reflections that Pat Unger found in the Sutton archives.

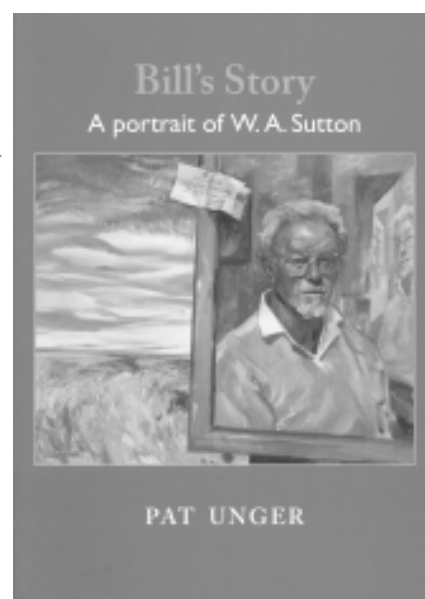
Bill's Story does not try to traverse the ground amply covered earlier by critics, cataloguers, art historians and analysers of Sutton's work. Instead, Pat Unger has offered a lively account of the man, seen by friends and students, and by himself. This is a rich record of the community of people around

Bill Sutton, colleagues in the academic world, professional artists, local politicians, art administrators, church leaders and many others with whom he worked and sometimes battled.

The very well illustrated book, 252 pages, has a recommended retail price of \$39.95.

Appropriately, the book was launched at the Christchurch Art Gallery where, for its own opening in 2003, Bill Sutton's "blockbusting" retrospective exhibition was held. The gallery has archived his many boxes of records, letters, and memorabilia - sure to be of value to other writers and historians.

An experienced book editor, Rachel Scott, is at present acting publisher at Canterbury University Press.



St James's-on-the-Cust

Chapman, Dixon, Bennett, Blunden, Addinell and, perhaps not surprising, Cust are names that figure among those of many donors who have furnished and maintained St James's church.

Sir Edward Cust of Birkenhead, Cheshire, and Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire, one of the original members of the Canterbury Association in 1848, gave the church its bell in 1869. A wooden belfry was replaced by the present brick tower in 1882 by Robert Chapman of Springbank. He died later that year.

Among the church's treasures (well secured) is the silver Canterbury chalice, one of six brought in the association's first immigrant ships. The accompanying communion paten, given by Colonel Archer Cust on his Royal Empire Society visit in 1948, is a replica of another Canterbury piece held by St John's, Woolston. More than 100 years ago, the Revd W A Purey-Cust, later a canon of Lincoln Cathedral, gave the vicar a pocket communion set first used early in the nineteenth century.

The Pearce pipe organ, built in Christchurch for 200 pounds, was installed in 1917 to celebrate the first 50 years of St James's. In 1925 its hand pump was replaced by an electrically driven blower and the church's gas lighting was succeeded by electricity.

Much of the wood decoration is attributable to the Christchurch carver, Frederick Gurnsey. His signature Tudor rose is visible. A beaten copper and enamelled alms dish was probably his work.

The two-light east window, erected in 1896, depicts St James and his brother, St John. It commemorates Robert Chapman and was made in London by the James Powell and Sons (Whitefriars) studio. Taking the evening light, and drawing inspiration from John's Book of Revelation (Ch 3, v 20), is the west window, derived from the hugely popular 1853 painting by William Holman Hunt --*The Light of the World*.

This window, probably made in Australia after World War 1, is a memorial to three members of the Blunden family: Alice, widow of John Terry Murphy (son of the Australian absentee owner of Murphy's Run), Reginald Blunden whom she later married, and their son Leonard, who was killed at Passchendaele in 1917.

Inspired by the verse "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..." the celebrated Pre-Raphaelite

artist, Holman Hunt, finished a much larger version of his original in 1903. The philanthropic buyer of this picture undertook to tour it through Canada, Australasia, and South Africa. Already known through reproductions, it attracted thousands of viewers. In Christchurch, its journey happily coincided with the 1906 International Exhibition and it hung in the British Government display.

Two years later, back in London, it was presented to St Paul's Cathedral. The Cust version of this picture, almost a Protestant icon, is one of about twenty in Canterbury church windows according to Fiona Ciaran's definitive work on Canterbury stained glass.

The nave of the church is a simple but sturdy 1865 structure on a design by Maxwell Bury, who had entered a partnership with Benjamin Mountfort in 1864. Mountfort was engaged to plan a chancel and vestry that were added ten years later. His parsonage, built in 1876, still stands west of the church and Sunday school.



The Light of the World
William Holman Hunt's 1853
painting given to Keble College,
Oxford.

Medical History Trust progress

The Cotter Medical History Trust is in its tenth year of managing and extending the library, archives, and collections of medical memorabilia and relics begun by Pat Cotter.

The biographical files are growing and one of Mr Cotter's helpers, Gillian Beaven, has indexed more than 450 files for the National Register of Archives and Manuscripts. More photographs have been identified and filed. Instruments and other appliances continue to be given to the collection. Thousands of books have been catalogued and shelved.

One of our Foundation's members, Alistair Bury, has contributed a biography of one of his early colleagues, Dr Dennis Tiffen Stewart, anatomical pathologist at Christchurch Hospital in the 1950s and '60s.

Professor Geoffrey Rice has begun work on the history of Sunnyside Hospital, a project that has the keen support of the Trust.

The annual meeting of the Trust in March heard of progress in facing one of the biggest financial challenges: to acquire a collection of 150 microscopes assembled in Nelson by Stephen Clark. This is almost certainly the largest collection in Australasia and the Trust hopes to keep it intact to show the development of microscopy and its role in medical investigation.

Displays of equipment are spread through Christchurch hospitals and are arranged for reunions, conferences, and other events. Mr Cotter and his team welcome individual and group visits to their headquarters and museum in the former Nurses' Home west of Christchurch Hospital. Arrangements can be made by telephone, dialling directly: (03) 364-0640 and extension 89097; or by email: maxa@xtra.co.nz

UC Opportunity strong on History

History tours and lecture sessions feature strongly in the May-July programme issued by the University of Canterbury's UC Opportunity office. For full details see the *Learning for Life* brochure recently published by the university, check www.uco.canterbury.ac.nz or phone the Okeover office, (03) 364 2470. Check fees and enrolment deadlines.

A six-hour bus tour led by Rik Pitama on 20 May will visit significant pre-European Maori sites in and around Christchurch.

For the University's Platform Arts Festival members of the School of History will give four free sessions on the theme "What's new in history": New Evidence for Ngai Tahu History, by Dr Te Maire Tau; Medical History in the South Pacific, by Dr Jane Buckingham; New Interpretations of the French Revolution, by Professor Geoffrey Rice; and Abraham Lincoln and Leadership, by Dr Peter Field. These evening lectures are on 27 and 30 May.

Frieda Looser, who is also leading a study tour through Devon and Cornwall in June, will give lectures on "Smugglers, Wreckers, and Pirates" on four Monday evenings (5-26 May). She will deal with privateers, the Caribbean, Penzance, deliberate shipwrecks, Cornish smugglers and the mythology and romance that have sprung from this part of maritime history. She will present five evening sessions (Thursdays, 15 May - 12 June) on Britain before the written record provided by Roman historians. She will tell of how archeological and DNA research continues to produce insights into a prehistoric past.

"Legends and Legacy of King Arthur" is Frieda Looser's theme for another run of five Wednesday

evening lectures (7 May-4 June). On Sunday, 4 May, she is leading a full-day tour to explore the autumn landscape and history of Waiau, and the Waipara and Hurunui districts on the way there. "Henry's Whores - The Other Boleyn Girl" will be discussed by Frieda in the context of debates in the arts over performance and history, the role of stage and film in presenting history, and differing expectations.

Jenny Mayne, long engaged in family and local history, is leading eight weekly afternoon sessions for those wanting to extend their work beyond family trees. Her course begins on Monday, 5 May. She will cover parenthood and child records, land and court records, military ancestors, family life in Victorian England, tracing Scottish and Irish ancestors, and many other topics.

Another major series of lectures will be by Dr Greg Ryan on the social history of alcohol and its critics. He will give eight lectures on Thursday evenings (from 15 May) beginning with the place of alcohol in ancient civilisations, then in monasteries and commerce (500-1600), in America, and the rise of prohibition movements. Dr Ryan will conclude with a lecture on big brands, micro-breweries, and changing tastes in recent decades in New Zealand.

Dr Matt Morris will give six lectures on gardening in Christchurch from 1850 to 1950 (Thursdays from 15 May). Dr Philip Ferguson will offer two Saturday afternoon sessions, on 10 May and 21 June: the first on the Irish history background to the film *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*; the second on US interventions in Vietnam and Iraq, similarities and differences.