

The Salisbury Museum Volunteer Blog ~ A place to share and discover more about volunteering at The Salisbury Museum

Granny Cousins

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POSTED BY SALISBURY MUSEUM IN WESSEX PARTNERSHIP

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Tags

a knocker up, Granny Cousins, Poole, Poole Museum



As part of our partnership with Wessex Museums (made up of Dorchester, Poole, Devizes – Wiltshire – and ourselves) we have this from Poole Museum.

Granny Cousins was a Poole lady whose job it was, in the days before watches and clocks became common, to go about the town of Poole and wake up the rope-workers and others by hammering on their windows with a long pole. The most fascinating part of the story is that she is said to have started at three in the morning – pretty grim hours for her, but who was the poor workman who was first on her list and had to be up so much earlier than the others? Perhaps it was a case of last in, first to get up?

Granny Cousins died in 1927 – within living memory, almost anyway, for many – and it is interesting to think that her work was still necessary as late as the last part of the nineteenth century when she must have been in her prime. She is often referred to as the *last* of the ‘knocker-ups’, a role which must reach back centuries.

More about Granny Cousins next time....

About Salisbury Museum

Salisbury Museum is based in the King's House, a beautiful medieval building, located opposite Salisbury Cathedral. As a grade I listed building the King's House has a history as fascinating as the collections it now holds. And the museum is once again adding to that rich history as it begins an exciting new phase of redevelopment. Over the next few years Salisbury Museum will be renovating its galleries, breathing new life into its wonderful collections. The museum's archaeological collections are of outstanding national significance, including some of the most important finds outside a national museum in Britain, and include artifacts from the Stonehenge World Heritage site, the Pitt Rivers Wessex collection, and the Amesbury archer. In June 2012 the museum was awarded £1.8 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the redevelopment of its archaeological galleries in recognition of the importance of the collections. The archaeological collections are currently in storage awaiting their new home in the new Archaeology of Wessex gallery, which will be open in Spring 2014. Although the archaeological collections are packed away, there is still loads to see and do at Salisbury museum. The museum holds rich and diverse collections relating to the people of Salisbury and the history of the city and surrounding area. Collections include a wonderful medieval collection, with finds from the medieval city, as well as sites like Old Sarum and Clarendon Palace; fascinating displays of costumes and ceramics; and an impressive art collection that includes works by J M W Turner, John Constable, Augustus John and Rex Whistler. The museum also hosts regular temporary exhibitions.

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