

Bringing you news

In ancient Rome the word **Tabulae** was applied to any flat substance used for writing on, either stone or metal, or wood covered with wax. Although there is no mention of cyber-space within the Roman world, tabula was a way of communicating and passing on messages and we have elected to use this word as the name of the Abbey Museum newsletter which we hope to publish on a monthly basis. **Tabula** does not replace LINDISFARNE, the extensive newsletter of the Friends of the Abbey Museum, but is intended to keep you informed on the up-to-date happenings in the exciting world of the Abbey Museum.

If you do not wish to be on a mailing list to receive TABULA please just reply with PLEASE REMOVE in the subject line.

Abbey Medieval Tournament

This years Abbey Medieval Tournament was the most successful to date. Despite a lapse on Saturday afternoon in the Divine agreement for a weekend of fine weather the visitor numbers had increased by almost 2000 on those attending 2003 event. Channel 7's the Great South East filmed the event which was televised on Sunday 8 August. The popularity and interest in our festival is definitely growing and we wish to take all though who help and support us in many ways.

New Acquisitions



The Abbey Museum is always interested in the acquisition of items to broaden the collections. At a recent antiquities sale, the Museum was successful in purchasing three new items. This wonderful horse and rider dates to the Tang Dynasty, c. 618–906 AD. It has fine features and excellent proportions, decorated with polychrome mineral pigments. The Museum used to have one of these figures at the Abbey Folk Park in New Barnet, but it was sold when the collections left England

The second piece is an Egyptian sculpture of a Falcon from the Ptolemaic period 3rd-1st Century BC. It is made of weathered wood in the form of the falcon-god Horus and will add considerably to the display. Egyptian items are always popular, but are becoming increasingly expensive and difficult to obtain.



A third acquisition dates from the 5th- 4th century BC – the Iron Age and is a rare Phoenician terracotta mask of a bearded figure, some 30 cm high. Such figures often adorned anthropomorphic coffins and are related to votive and funerary figures.



BUSINESS ACHIEVERS AWARD

With some surprise, we find that the **Abbey Museum** has been nominated as a Finalist in the "**BUSINESS ACHIEVERS AWARD**" in the Category of Readers Choice. This award scheme is now in its' eleventh year, being promoted by Quest Community Newspapers, and gets bigger by the year. We consider it an honour to have been nominated.

