

Saltash Heritage Museum & Local History Centre
17 Lower Fore Street
Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 6JQ

Annual report 2021/2022

The Pandemic still lingering had a noticeable effect on our museum work. The Management Team under their new Chair Mrs. Jean Dent, who joined us in May 2021, progressed steadily. The team managed to work in the museum during much of the year, with only one or two members going in on different days. Working in the building, helped with the security aspect, temperature control and maintenance of the building. A great deal of work was continued at home. Because of a substantial bequest that was left to the Museum by our late President, our outreach workers along with all 14 of the Management team, were called in to assist and transcription work, sorting out photographs, dating and filing work and other projects were taken on by them. As at today about 80% of this work has been dealt with. This has been a huge task as the paperwork alone amassed to many filing cabinets and boxes full of a life time of research work. Around 4000 books and hundreds of OS maps all left to us which had to be dealt with. Those items which were not relevant to our Museum remit of the area that we deal with, meant that other museums and archives in both Devon and Cornwall, have also benefitted from this bequest. By the middle of the year we were able to open the display area, with precautions, masks, sanitising, Lateral Flow tests for volunteer staff, Protective screen supplied and no touching of items, signs. The one way system worked brilliantly and we managed to welcome 728 live visitors into the museum. Numbers for the outreach-work, face book page and enquiries are still being established for the year.

We have managed to continue with our monthly Management meetings renting the Church rooms and honouring social distancing. We have successfully kept most of our volunteers by a regular monthly blog and newsletters.

We released a new book about the construction of the Tamar Road Bridge and sold a huge number of copies around the Christmas period. The government support money has seen us through the last two years with all our outgoings. Accreditation to Arts Council England which is the highest standard of work and support provided by museums was completed last year, as our biannual returns to maintain this standard. We have now been informed that they wish us to add a clause about dealing with the likes of the pandemic to show we

could deal with an unexpected event. I think we have proved by our action that we have done this extremely successfully.

We entered the Cornwall Heritage Awards in November and once again are delighted to say that we have been shortlisted for another award. The final results of the winners of the annual awards (open to all Museums and Archive centres in Cornwall) will be released at a ceremony in Wadebridge next month. Four members of Saltash Heritage will attend the ceremony.

We worked with other groups in the town providing exhibitions and workshops during the year. The biggest event was working with, 'Ashtorre', commemorating the last ferry, and the opening of the Tamar Road Bridge. Many hundreds of visitors viewed our displays and listened to the talks presented by our Vice- Chair.

We are all preparing our Exhibition for 2022, continuing to complete the work on our bequest and look forward to welcoming visitors back once more into our museum. We have lots of new ideas in store, as the pandemic has shown us that there is a great deal more we can offer via using the internet and social media.

Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey
Hon Secretary.