

Saltash Heritage  
Annual report for Parishioners  
2023

I am delighted to report that this year has been a busier, happier and more productive year following the uncertain times during the pandemic.

Our happiest moment was when we were informed that we had again had our Accreditation approved by Arts Council England and this will last for a further three years. This is the high standard of work that is expected of us as a museum, in caring for the items in our collection, maintaining our standards of safety and care of our volunteers and visitors, providing all the help we can, answering the huge amount of queries which come our way, and welcoming everyone into our museum. We are fortunate to have maintained the same level of volunteers, even though because of illness or death we have lost some, new volunteers have stepped forward out of some magic cloud.

We have joined the Cornwall Family History group in a days' training in the Saltash Wesley Church, we had two sessions in the library joining in various open days, we have set up photographic displays in Ashtorre Rock and our speakers have been out and about giving talks to various groups in the town. We have joined the South East Cornwall Museums Forum, of whom we are a very active member and attended two training sessions of green energy and sustainability, looking to the future. We have led a Family History Open day in Liskeard again for the 6<sup>th</sup> year running and met up with hundreds of visitors from all over the country. Our 7<sup>th</sup> year of this event will be in June this year.

Our Management team continue to meet for an evening every month and attend the SECMF meetings all over east Cornwall every other month.

We have welcomed a new young recruit on to our Committee who is training as our new Curator and we are delighted at his enthusiasm. All major rolls in the museum have a shadow, someone to step in to cover and learn and we are pleased to say another recruit has been taken on board to shadow the Curator and these two men are actively starting to reorganise the 3d items in our care in a new area we have given them, due to the acquisition of some extra storage space close by which will give us more space in the research area also to accommodate the many visitors we have to our local history research room.

Last night three members of the Management Committee attended an all day symposium in the RIC in Truro. This was followed by the Cornwall Heritage Awards, and I am delighted to say that Saltash Heritage once again snapped up one of the seven annual awards. This year, 'The Object of the Year' award for a 3ft model rowing boat made by Mashford Brothers boat builders in Saltash in 1926 for the son of one of the Mashford Brothers to be used as a cradle for his new son. This was later altered to have internal boat fittings as the young toddler grew up and we have a photograph of young Roy playing in the cradle/boat on the river Tamar by the boat builders yard. This boat will be taking prime position in the new exhibition about to open in April, all about sustainability and recycling.

All this has been going on, whilst welcoming a large number of visitors, especially on the Jubilee weekend when we were extremely busy and late night Christmas shopping when we had over 300 visitors in during that Saturday alone.

Our researchers continue to deal with a huge number of requests from all over the world, one just arriving last week from South Africa with the possible donation of a mystery clock presented to a long time worker in the Co op just before the first world

war. Amongst our many donations this year was a box of china from New Zealand this turned out to be small Victorian china pieces with images of the construction of the Royal Albert Bridge and appears to be momento's which were produced soon after the opening of the bridge in 1859 for citizens to purchase as a memory of this grand event. These items will feature in our current exhibition to be opened in April this year. We had a highly popular AGM in the new restored Station building with a fascinating talk about the history and connection of Landulph to Saltash by one of our Management team. We now look forward to a busy 2023 and see what unexpected things happen to Saltash Heritage.

Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey  
Hon Secretary