

Liskeard & District Museum Management Report C & E Meeting, 1st June 2017

Three management meetings have been held since the last C&E Meeting. In that period, the visitor numbers have continued to grow and both the comments in the visitor's book and the increase in donations reflect the public's feelings about it. Brian Oldham's talks are oversubscribed and a wonderful contribution too. Liskeard Museum's presentation to the Cornwall Museums Group about the current exhibition's planning and execution was very well received.

It has been noted that Sue Pike is no longer a volunteer or a council representative for the Museum. It is anticipated that a new councilor will be appointed in the near future. Hella Tovar has also resigned from the Council but it was agreed she would remain as Chair of the Management Committee.

Budget

Gordon reported that the museum is well within budget

Museum Management Matters

There had been a long and very useful meeting for accessions on 13th April 2017. A comprehensive list of the decisions reached and actions to be followed is available in the Museum for Councilors to view. There is still a long list of queries which involves research, contact with donors and more.....

Management now looking at the De-accessioning process - Gordon has produced a "bible" of procedures to be sure the Accreditation standard is maintained. A first move will be to deal with loans - again the issue of who will do it was raised and the need for more volunteers!

New Displays for 2018

Ideas were discussed for next year's exhibitions, but at this stage nothing is firm.

There will be small tweaks in Daniel Gumb Room - to make it more personal ie more people centric and also small tweaks in Henry Rice Room - more information needed and exploration for an audio-visual kiosk

Big Changes are foreseen in John Rapson and John Allen rooms - early exploratory thoughts outlined - Jayne and Hella to work together on this, once Jayne has completed an essay for PhD..

Brian Oldham was going to be a asset in the local history and heritage area - and the problem might be of what to leave out rather than what to include!

Time planning is again key, and the constraints of limited manpower create their own limitation. The continued need for volunteers was stressed.

Audio-Visual ambitions for the museum

Following the discussions about displays, research will be undertaken with Blackbox audio/video/interactive specialists as to exact requirements. To date there are no audio outlets in the museum Any changes must be seen as an integral part of future museum displays.

There is a call for more oral histories - both audio recording and some visual filming.

Grants

The areas which could benefit from some help were discussed, including the need for

- 1) New cabinets (front loading)
- 2) Old cabinets need the fluorescent lighting to be changed to LED
- 3) Sound in the museum -
- 4) Interactive displays
- 5) Digitalisation
- 6) Small films of objects and local residents

The committee recognise the need to prioritise what is needed - which would determine where to apply and who would be happy to give grants. It was suggested that Viridor could be approached again.

Before June meeting and dependent on manpower a more detailed wish list with costings will be drawn up.

Digitisation

There was some uncertainty amongst the Management Team as how to progress with our photographic collection. The question of purchasing a scanner was raised. Gordon felt that any big task would need to be done professionally. The use and type of scanners was discussed. The purpose of scanning is now recommended to avoid handling of original documents. It also allows sharing of documents, making the collection more accessible to other museums. Also allows documents to be transcribed at home - outsourced. Small documents can be scanned in-house. In theory, all will be scanned and can be stored on the Cloud. Storage could be on memory sticks.

The proposal is to find out what exactly other museums are doing (With guidance from CMG) Will consult the volunteer/consultant who has been responsible for archiving in other museums for assistance. Unknown photos to be put in the Cornish Times.

Me and My Favourite Toy Project..

Initially proposed for an Easter holiday event, on reflection this project has been seen as an opportunity to collect/create a social history of what toys people are playing with now - and their stories. Now proposed for the final week of October, before museum Winter closure

The proposal is for a volunteer to photo subjects (residents in the Liskeard & District Museum area, young and old) with their toys. There will be opportunity for audio recordings. Copyright and public safety concerns will be addressed with the correct paperwork. The exact details and process for this project is presently being prepared.

Additional Schools/Memory Box of Toys

A teacher from Looe visited the toy exhibition and then approached the museum asking whether there was a Toy Box for schools. Also, following loans to the Echo Centre, staff requested more pertinent memory boxes allowing for younger people affected by dementia and strokes.

The committee believe that there would be a place for such a loans boxes - and this will be explored in more depth. Memory and schools boxes are both sources of revenue (albeit it small and optional) to the museum as well as being a valuable resource to the community.

Family History Day - South East Cornwall Museums Forum

This will be held on 3rd June in the Public Hall. The Museum will have a stand along with many other museums and societies that help the public with family history research. This is a great opportunity for the Museum and for networking with other heritage organisations. It also showcases the Council's Public Hall. A flyer is attached showing the impressive amount of organisations involved.

Conservation

The Museum has received a quote from Exeter Museum conservation department for restoration/repair of a Victorian Mr. Punch puppet for £1340. It will be ready for the year's end and therefore ready for display in 2018.

There is also a Geological Survey Map of the Caradon Mining Area Liskeard (1857) in Penzance awaiting a quote for the cost for restoration/conservation. This expenditure was foreseen when setting the budget.

Recommendation: that the Council approve the payment of this £1,340 for restoration of the Punch Doll - an early donation to the museum when in West Street. The provenance is unknown.

Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about the Council's ban on the use of a Museum banner in Barras Street, since there is now a banner (paid for) which we are unable to display. Meanwhile Parade House has one illegible banner - and banners continue to be used in and around town. Where can the Council recommend this is hung - that it is effective?

The sale of ice cream has been seen as an opportunity to enhance the visitor experience overall. Overall shop sales have grown as have visitor numbers this month.

Cornish Christmas 2017 was discussed. The Museum supports in theory some of the proposed activities, but stressed again the lack of volunteer resources to help much. It was also noted that the Museum is closed from end of October to mid-February, which could be a problem.

22nd June, 2017