

- Saturday 2nd September marked the end of our Summer programme, which had run for the full 6 weeks of the holidays. Our offer included 2 talks on Emily Hobhouse (attended by 42), 1 talk on Daniel Gumb (28), Creative Writing workshop (7), as well as 3 storytelling events (16 adults and 19 children in total). The talks, as well as the writing workshop were ticketed events; the story sessions were free to attend. We also ran pebble-themed crafts every day of the Summer, which included a brand-new trail, and pebble painting. The latter proved so popular, that we had to replenish our stocks twice. In total, approximately 130kg of pebbles have been painted this Summer... In order to ensure a creative/ethical disposal of the small selection of painted pebbles left behind, we have launched an #LMPebbles Facebook page, which encourages our visitors to hide a pebble somewhere in their communities, for somebody else to find. I am pleased to say that it looks like our programme practically 'paid for itself', with donations and ticketed entries balancing a vast majority of the materials & freelancers' fees. This is encouraging, and with some refinement, could be a way forward.
- We are continuing to develop a good partnership with the Moor to Sea project. In July, we hosted 2 school workshops for the students from Liskeard School and Looe Academy, who travelled down the Looe Valley on the train. We have also had Jo Buchanan come in and deliver her brilliant 'Oral History' workshop for our volunteers, which has given us some creative tools for future projects. Lastly, following a meeting with the Project Manager, Stephen Horscroft, we will also be contributing to their upcoming travelling exhibition later this month, at both Liskeard venues (Liskerrett Centre and Stuart House).
- I am delighted with the current skills set amongst our volunteers; the working atmosphere appears to be a positive one, too. We currently have 9 regular volunteers, plus some working remotely. I am in contact with the designer, Jo Hoskin, with whom we are working on ideas for a 'Volunteer recruitment' outdoor flag, as well as new leaflets and posters. These should be ready to launch over the next couple of months. I am particularly interested in recruiting for roles such as: housekeeping, fundraising, events, learning assistants, and handy people.

Coming up:

- We are all set for Liskeard Unlocked, with a temporary display dedicated to local creatives: Tremar Pottery and Liskeard Glass (put together by myself and our wonderful volunteers, Lynne and Karen). To accompany the exhibition, we will also run 4 crafts sessions aimed at children aged 3+ (*Little Playdough Potters*, September 8th & 9th, 15th and 16th, 10-12). The session will be supervised by me and/or a museum volunteer.
- I am pleased to say, we have finally had a breakthrough, in terms of our planning for a new major exhibition. 'Threads' will launch in early January 2024, and will be dedicated to unravelling stories carried by pieces of clothing, as well as the idea of repurposing garments, opposing fast fashion, and the art of 'hand-made'. The clothing received from Canada earlier in the year will be at the heart of the display. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of workshops centred around the idea of 'reusing and repurposing'. I am also looking to put into practice our recently acquired knowledge of 'oral histories', as a way to involve the members of our local community in creating a section of this exhibition (details still to be clarified). The installation of 'Threads' will require a major movement of our current displays: the 1950s/60s display will come down, and will be replaced by geology/mining artefacts, previously on display in Daniel Gumb room - soon a home of our new exhibition.

- Due to work required in preparation for 'Threads', I am anticipating that Liskeard & District Museum will close for 2-3 weeks, most likely between Saturday, 23rd December (possibly earlier) – Sunday, 7th January. I should be able to confirm the exact dates next week.
- I will be away on annual leave over October half-term. However, it is my aim to still offer some self-directed Halloween/Autumn-themed crafts that week, as well as a trail. We are also looking into making the actual Halloween day that little bit more special (plans afoot).