

MUSEUM VISITOR NUMBERS & FEEDBACK

Since the museum reopened after Christmas/New Year break on January 8th, we have seen a steady flow of people coming through our doors: 198 visitors in January (in comparison to 179 last year), and 441 in February (up from 348 in 2023). Many visitors came specifically to see 'Threads'. We have received some lovely comments in our visitor book, and on our social media platforms, describing our new exhibition as 'Excellent', 'Wonderful', 'Beautiful', 'Informative and interesting'. Frequent mentions of 'friendly' and 'helpful' volunteers feature, too. Liskeard & District Museum continues to be referred to as 'a hidden gem', 'an amazing place', and a 'wonderful walk down memory lane'.

MUSEUM BUDGET INCREASE & RESERVES

Our team of volunteers and I have welcomed an increase in our annual budget allowance. We are also very pleased to have built strong financial reserves last year, thanks to public donations, and having hosted a film crew at our museum. The reserves are indispensable when it comes to collection care, consultations with conservators, and creating new displays of a professional standard.

THREADS

Our latest exhibit 'Threads' has been partially funded by the Southwest Museums Development grant 'On Display!'. The funding process and evaluation have now been completed. I would like to express my thanks to all museum volunteers, who worked incredibly hard to put the exhibition together. I am proud of what we managed to achieve.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Having concentrated all our efforts on Daniel Gumb room in recent months, we are beginning to turn our attention to other displays. In a lead-up to February half-term, we took the opportunity to refresh our exhibits in John Rapson room, and decided to display examples of Rapson's wedding photographs, with stories of local people. The display was accompanied by Valentine's Day-themed crafts for our younger visitors.

We are starting to make plans for the digitisation of John Rapson's negatives. We have made initial enquiries with the Somerset-based company Lux and Livre, who are specialists in photographic conservation and digitisation. This is a major project that is likely to run over the next couple of years, and will require sourcing additional funding. It is likely to be a springboard to a major new exhibition in John Rapson room.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Myself and a small team of volunteers have started to review our existing museum processes, as well as creating new ones. Above all, this is to make our work across the museum easier, more transparent, and accessible to all volunteers and staff. With frequent changes of hands at the museum in recent years, this is now a necessity. This is also an important step towards renewing our museum accreditation (December 2026).

PLANS FOR EASTER

We are currently finalising our plans for Easter. We are working with the theme of 'Smugglers', and a 'Treasure hunt'. A fun trail for younger visitors, crafts, as well as accompanying events (workshops, talks and storytime) to be expected. Publicity is due to launch at the end of this week.