

#### NADELIK LYSKERRYS

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, our museum participated in Nadelik Lyskerrys. We were open during the day for the Cornish Language Trail, as well as in the evening (4pm-7:30pm). We were overjoyed with the number of visitors: 68 adults and 69 children during normal opening hours, 106 adults and 42 children in the evening!

The event felt like a true community celebration, with many families partaking in the Cornish Colour trail, and joining us for our own Christmas lights switch-on. Visitors eagerly engaged in conversations with museum staff dressed up in Dickensian costumes and took photos against the festive backdrop (cleverly designed by our Digital Enhancement Volunteer, Niall). The evening culminated with the Liskeard Community Choir performing Christmas carols, gathered around the Rapson balcony. With some small tweaks, I feel confident in saying that a new festive tradition has been born for our museum!

#### EMILY HOBHOUSE

Our volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Story of Emily on November 29<sup>th</sup>. They wish to pass on their thanks to Liskeard Town Council for sponsoring the trip.

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, I will be participating in the meeting at the SoE to discuss ways to mark the centenary of Emily Hobhouse's death. The meeting will involve the SoE Managing Director, Sterts theatre, the Liskerrett and possibly more.

Emily Hobhouse will be a major focus for our work at the museum next year, with the Rapson gallery being redeveloped to accommodate two mini displays involving the St Ive heroine. Our priority is now to establish the launch dates for both the 'Peacemakers' display (Courtneys & Hobhouse), and the independent exhibit curated by the SoE. The conversations with the SoE team are ongoing.

#### RAPSON COLLECTION

The meeting with the Media Archivist at The Box, Stacey Anderson, has now taken place, and we have established a way of accessing the collection for digitisation purposes.

I am also pleased to report that we have secured £1,000 from Cornwall Council Small Grants for Museums. The funding will go towards the costs of the condition audit of the negatives (January 2025), as well as the subsequent digitisation and cataloguing training for our volunteers (March 2025). Both will be delivered by Sarah Allen from a Somerset-based company Lux and Livre, who specialise in photographic conservation.

#### VOLUNTEER ACTION PLAN

Last month, I attended a one-to-one session with Eleanor Moore, Sustainable Volunteering Officer for Museum Development South West; all as part of the Volunteering Fit for the Future, a light touch programme of support for museums with volunteer involvement. After a fruitful conversation, Eleanor produced a report which is to inform our action plan moving forward. Creating the plan and putting it into practice has been included in the new Forward Plan 2024-2028. In her report, Eleanor comments with encouragement: *It's clear that the Museum Manager role involves a constant focus on volunteering and that much progress has recently been made towards nurturing a team culture for volunteering.* I look forward to implementing the Action Plan in the New Year.

#### CORNWALL HERITAGE AWARDS 2025

The awards ceremony will be held at Liskeard Public Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025. As we were pushed for time, we have only been able to enter one category: 'Exhibition of the year'. Keep your fingers crossed for 'Threads'!