

JOHN RAPSON GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

The John Rapson gallery remains closed until the new exhibition launches, most likely in time for February half-term. The refurbished gallery will feature two new displays: one dedicated to local photography, and the Museum Development South West 'On Display!' grant funded 'Peacemakers' exhibition, with a particular tribute paid to Emily Hobhouse, commemorating the centenary of her death. Both displays will be told mainly through the medium of portraits, and stories of mentorship. On behalf of the museum team, I would like to thank the Liskeard Town Council Facilities Team for their support with the process and managing the contract.

RAPSON DIGITISATION PROJECT

In September and October, our museum volunteers benefitted from training sessions with Sarah Allen, photographic materials conservator, and Tim Burge, cataloguing and MODES specialist. Both training sessions were very insightful and marked the start of our digitisation project. Our designated workstation has now been set up, and a small project group has emerged from our existing team of volunteers. Hollie, our newest recruit, and Shannon, will be coordinators for the project.

Sarah Allen will be back on site on Thursday, November 27th, as we host our very first Volunteer Open Morning, focusing on Collection Digitisation. Members of the community are welcome to pop in to the Jeanne Rees' room between 10:30-12:30 to watch our volunteers in action, find out about the digitisation project and other volunteering opportunities, and to chat with Sarah. At 2pm, Sarah will deliver a free public talk about 'Caring for Family Photographs'. All above activities have been funded by the Museum Development South West (MDSW) Small Open Grant.

LEARNING VOLUNTEER'S REPORT (October half-term)

'This year's theme was Allantide (Kalan Gwav) which explored the old Cornish tradition of giving apples on 31st October, we also encompassed autumn and ran with the following workshops:

Autumn Leaf Printing - run at the start of half term - very popular with pre-schoolers and was well received and was then run today (5th November). Today, we were very pleased to welcome a young lady with special needs, accompanied by her carers. A consideration will be made for what else we can offer to people with additional needs in the future.

Autumn Creatures workshop - making pinecone owls and hedgehogs. Again, well received.

Finally on 31st October we ran our Allantide special workshop, which saw two pretty much full sessions making apple crates and pompom apples. Both sessions were well received.

For most of the workshops I was assisted by Hollie and our Duke of Edinburgh student, John. Having the additional help on the days was extremely useful.

The Eventbrite booking system worked really well; the only thing we need to make clear is that only spaces for the children need to be booked, not the parents.

I will continue with Allantide next year although possibly change up some of the activities.'

Although our October visitor numbers were slightly lower than last year's, we are keen to continue with our more traditional take on Halloween. This interpretation, rooted in local traditions and heritage more broadly, is more in line with our museum's Vision and Mission, and we are proud to align ourselves with museums such as the Museum of Cornish Life in Helston, who also concentrated on Allantide instead of Halloween this year.

Lizzie is currently finalising our festive offer, which will explore Christmas Traditions. The Museum will take part in the Nadelik Lyskerrys event on November 29th and will be a part of the Cornish language trail.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND WELCOMING CHILDREN WORKSHOP & HAZARDS IN COLLECTIONS PROGRAMME

Last month, we secured the MDSW Capacity Builder funding, which will cover the costs of Helen Horler's bespoke workshop for our volunteers (November 14th). We will be exploring the theme of Visitor Experience and Welcoming Children. Our colleagues from the Tourist Information Centre are also welcome to attend, as we all acknowledge the shared responsibility of creating a welcoming and safe environment for all.

We have also been selected for the MDSW programme on identifying Hazards in Museum Collections, with the first training session scheduled in for November 24th.

VOLUNTEERING TEAM

We currently have 20 volunteers on our records, with 12 attending regularly.