C & E report by Iga Webb, Museum Manager 03/11/2026

EXHIBTIONS AND COLLECTIONS UPDATES

A brand-new exhibition detailing the History of Foresters Hall has been installed in the museum's corridor. The timeline was produced by a local company Print 2 Media. We are very pleased with the results, and we look forward to developing new projects together in near future. The Henry Rice room has also seen new artefacts go on display.

In the Daniel Gumb room, Learning Volunteer Lizzie has utilised the Pooley Cabinet to display examples from our handling collections. The visitors are now able to request to see the objects up close and explore them.

The Museum Management Team have decided to de-accession two Victorian school desks from our permanent collection and transfer them to the handling collections instead. The school desks don't fulfil the museum's collection criteria (lack of connection to Liskeard), and the team agreed there was more benefit to them being used for our learning and engagement purposes, which is easier to achieve with handling collections.

LEARNING AT THE MUSEUM

Visitor numbers in October were the highest since 2022 and almost doubled the figures from last year. The two-week half-term saw 138 children and 187 adults visit the Museum. Lizzie has once again put together a wonderful programme of seasonal workshops (bookings for a symbolic charge), and a new trail. Thanks to Lizzie's enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude, the Museum is now able to take payments for the sessions, as well as donations, through our website. The system needs further tweaking, but we are delighted to have made this happen.

The Museum has advertised its activities in both The Primary Times and Blackbird Pie magazines. Thanks to their publication deadlines, and experience gained from previous years, we are now able to plan and promote activities up to four months in advance.

NADELIK LYSKERRYS

We look forward to participating in Nadelik Lyskerrys this year. We plan to build on the formula from previous two years, continuing with the tradition of our own Christmas lights switch-on and carols with the Community Choir. Lizzie is putting on two community workshops during the day (Traditional Peppermint Creams and Christmas Crackers). Rochelle from the very popular Iris Photography is coming back to the Museum for the day, too. The Museum will be open between 10:00-18:00 (no break during the day).

MUSEUM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The original plan to mark the Museum's 25th anniversary in June 2027 with a black-tie event at the Public Hall has been replaced by a series of smaller events. The Museum Management Team felt this approach better reflects the Museum's ethos and offers a more meaningful way to engage those who have been connected with the Museum over the years. A varied programme of events will be developed, with something to appeal to everyone. Further details will be shared over the coming months.

VOLUNTEERING TEAM

We have had a y12 Liskeard School student join the team; they are looking to start volunteering with us for one day every two weeks. We have noted an increase of interest from younger people which is reassuring.

Two members of the Liskeard Arts Society have also applied to volunteer at the Museum; their specific interest is the John Rapson Digitisation project (they have experience of working on a digitisation project at the Port Eliot House). Volunteer Project Lead Hollie ran their first training session over half-term.

Winter is the time for the Museum to say 'thank you' to our amazing Volunteer team. On November 11th, the team will enjoy a free trip to Prideaux Place, Padstow, with the full house tour and cream tea.

Our Museum Management Team for the year 2026/2027 has increased from 3 to 4 members and consists of: Elizabeth Caddy, Kevin Brown, Brian Oldham, and Iga Webb.

BUDGET SETTING 2027/28

On the 6th June 2027, Liskeard and District Museum will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its official opening at Foresters Hall.

The Museum team is currently exploring ways to mark this important occasion with a varied programme of events.

Alongside these celebrations, we are looking for sources of additional funding to help deliver two longer-term projects that would make the anniversary even more special:

1. New outdoor signage

The Museum would like to improve its visibility in the town by introducing new external signage.

As Foresters Hall is a Grade II listed building, the signage will require Listed Building Consent.

We anticipate engaging a specialist agent to prepare and submit the application on our behalf

(estimate up to £2,500). Design and production of the signage would be an additional cost,

(estimate up to £1,000).

2. Restoration of the Museum's vintage clocks

The Museum team also hopes to finally begin the restoration of our collection of vintage clocks, including both wall-mounted and grandfather clocks.

We would love to see at least one of these clocks restored to working order and hear it chime in time for the 25th anniversary celebrations in June 2027.

The Museum has contacted a specialist conservator (recommended to us by the Museum Development South West) and we are currently waiting for the initial quote.

A substantial portion of Museum's reserves is likely to be utilised, and we are looking at suitable grant programmes.

Any additional increase to the Museum's annual budget for 2027/28 would be greatly appreciated and would help us make these wonderful plans a reality.

Thank you for considering our request and for your support.