

JOHN RAPSON GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

The John Rapson gallery will be closed to the public from September 1st until the new exhibition launches. This is now likely to be in February 2026, as opposed to the originally planned January 12th. This delay has been caused by several factors: we are waiting for the tender returns closing date (September 5th), for the available funding to be confirmed by the Facilities team, and for the chosen contractor to confirm their availability to carry out the external and internal works. It is our hope that the contractors' fees can be covered by the council's funding in full, so that museum reserves can be utilised to fulfil our ambitious vision for the exhibition (i.e. attractive new colour palette for the gallery that supports the Photography/Portraiture theme, professional graphics, oral history equipment, arts installation made out of photographic negatives, raised platform displaying a mock-up photographer's studio, and more). So far, thanks to the public donations, we have been able to purchase a brand-new display cabinet and a digital kiosk, both of which will feature in the display.

In the meantime, we are continuing with our exhibition team meetings as per usual. The Story of Emily have confirmed that their part of the work is progressing as planned. We have set the deadline for all interpretation to be completed by August 31st, which should allow plenty of time for the design of interpretation, final selection of artefacts and installation. Additionally, to raise more funds for the display, we launched a highly popular sale of the non-accessioned Tremar Pottery pieces. This small project has been agreed with the original donor of the collection and has increased our reserves by more than £400 to date.

The marketing of the new exhibition will commence once the schedule of works, the funding, and the launch date have all been confirmed.

RAPSON DIGITISATION PROJECT

On August 20th, our volunteers attended a session with Helen Horler from Culture Force, who is working with us on volunteer recruitment for the digitisation project. The volunteers were able to reflect on their volunteering experience and share ideas on how we can grow the team. Helen will produce recommendations and a plan for a more formalised recruitment campaign (November). We are benefitting from this support thanks to the Museum Development South West Small Open Grant.

Sarah Allen, photographic conservator, will be returning for two more sessions with us in late September. It is our plan to complete a test run of the Rapson digitisation project during her time with us. A new digitisation workstation is being prepared ahead of Sarah's visit.

Cataloguing specialist Tim Burge will be paying us a visit in mid-October, with a free training session for our volunteers on MODES and The Rapson cataloguing. Our volunteers have also been presented with an opportunity to sign up for a free session at The Box media archives, where they will shadow their cataloguing volunteers.

TIME TRAVELLERS' SUMMER

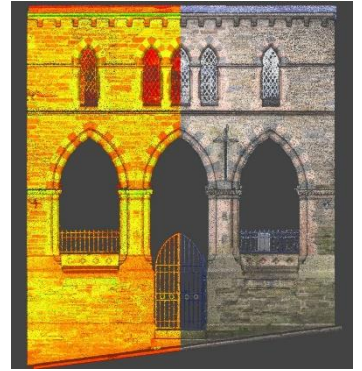
We have had a very busy Summer. My main thanks go to our lovely volunteer, Lizzie, who worked very hard delivering 4 out of the 9 workshops offered herself. These free sessions proved so popular that on most occasions we ran out of resources, and all museum tables and chairs were in use. Lizzie and I will evaluate the programme in early September and most likely – put a booking system in place for the future to minimise disappointment.

We also hosted our befriended local artist Nicky Harwood who led four workshops that promoted the themes of 'Portraiture' and 'Photography', ahead of the new exhibition opening. These workshops were funded thanks to visitors' donations. The visitors were invited to help make pieces of the sculpture which we are hoping to include in the display, funding permitting. Please see to the photos below.



LISKEARD UNLOCKED

It's full steam ahead for us, as we prepare for Liskeard Unlocked. The recently purchased digital kiosk will present the 3D scan of Foresters Hall, along with Brian's history of the building. Lizzie is working on a museum trail which will involve objects related to Foresters Hall. We will also take part in the town-wide sensory trail, with our sensory backpacks all good to go. Pop in to the Liskeard Town Hall to hear Brian's talk on Henry Rice on Friday 19th September, and meet our volunteers at the Pipewell on the 20th.



VOLUNTEERING TEAM

We currently have 17 volunteers supporting our museum. One more volunteer is due to join us following her induction on August 30th. We are looking to implement Helen Horler's recruitment plan in the mid-late November, which hopefully results in new people joining our friendly team.