

## REOPENING OF THE JOHN RAPSON GALLERY

*In Reflection: Photographs, Peacemakers, and Pacifist Emily* opened to the public on May 20<sup>th</sup>, with a launch event for invited guests on March 19<sup>th</sup>. We are overjoyed to have all exhibition rooms in use again, and we hope that our visitors enjoy the results of our work. My thanks go to our dedicated team of volunteers, and Liskeard Town Council.

## CORNWALL HERITAGE AWARDS 2026

This year's awards ceremony will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>, at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall (Falmouth). We are pleased to say that Liskeard and District Museum has been nominated in three categories:

*INNOVATION (John Rapson Digitisation Project)*

*HERITAGE HEROES Smaller Organisations (Kevin Brown and Elizabeth Caddy)*

*ONE TO WATCH (Hollie Thompson)*

We have also been invited to present at the Symposium preceding the awards ceremony. Hollie and I will share our experience of setting up and leading the digitisation project at our museum.

We attach a link to the Museum Development South West (MDSW) blog titled *Unlocking Potential: Success Stories from the 2025 Small Open Grants*, in which our project has been featured.

[Unlocking Potential: Success Stories from the 2025 Small Open Grants - Museum Development South West](#)

Unfortunately, our most recent application to the MDSW Small Open Grants (April 2026) was not successful. The proposal sought to secure funding to support a consultation process on the redevelopment of the John Allen Gallery and the Museum's Learning area. We will now explore alternative opportunities to move these plans forward.

## CORNISH BOTTLE ARCHIVE

Throughout May, our visitors can enjoy a temporary display curated and brought to us by the Cornish Bottle Archive. Alongside private collections, fine examples from our own collection feature. The Archive team will be present at the Museum at the Bottle Roadshow event on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-14:00.

## LEARNING AT THE MUSEUM

Our Volunteer Learning Lead, Lizzie, has put together a May half-term programme to accompany the bottle exhibition. 'Pirates and Smugglers' activities will run between May 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, with free bookable activities on selected days. Eventbrite has been used for the booking system, and it is working well. More than half of the activities had been booked before the posters were displayed around the town.

We are pleased to say that ideas for the Summer activities are also close to being finalised. Thanks to Lizzie's dedication and diligence, we are now able to plan further ahead than ever before. This means, that we should soon be able to start advertising in Cornwall-wide magazines, such as Blackbird.

The Home Education programme is restarting on May 18<sup>th</sup> following the Easter break. We look forward to seeing our young learners come back, and welcome new participants.

## VOLUNTEERING TEAM

We have 18 volunteers on our records, with 7 on a weekly rota. We've had increased interest from parents of candidates under 18 years old, and we are currently exploring how to support this.

To mark the national Volunteers' Week this year, we'll host a pop-up at Liskeard Library on June 6<sup>th</sup> (10:30-12:30), where our friendly team will be available to chat about volunteering and upcoming projects.