Liskeard & District Museum (Iga Webb) - C & E report July 2025

JOHN RAPSON GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

The Story of Emily (TSoE) have shared with us their chosen designer's proposal, which everyone in the team found exciting and well-fitting with broader plans for the gallery. We are also considering displaying a selection of Emily Hobhouse's original portraits as part of the exhibition; these would be loaned to us by TSoE. Elsabé Brits, TSoE consultant historian, will be joining us at the exhibition team meeting in person on July 5th.

The emerging theme for the new exhibition is 'formal portraiture' and we are getting closer to picking the overall title, which we are hoping to share with everyone in the next report. We are still looking at January 12th for the official launch. The gallery will close between September – December for renovations.

RAPSON DIGITISATION PROJECT

In June, our Digital Enhancement Volunteers, Niall and Mark, joined me at the online meeting with Sarah Allen (photographic conservator) and Tim Burge (MODES consultant). Significant progress was made with the planning of the digitisation project. Niall has very kindly donated a digitally advanced Epson scanner for the project and is currently working on the specifications of the digitisation workstation in our museum office.

Three more sessions with conservator Sarah Allen have been scheduled in for the Autumn. These sessions are free to attend for our volunteers. We will also be getting support with volunteer recruitment from Helen Horler (Culture Force). Our museum is benefitting from these opportunities thanks to the Museum Development South West Small Open Grant.

TIME TRAVELLERS' SUMMER

Our Learning Volunteer, Lizzie, has been busy putting together a Summer programme of activities for our local communities. From gelliplate image transfer to making your own swords and shields – there is something for everyone! Although most activities are free, we are encouraging participants to make donations to the museum to help us continue developing our learning offer.

Lizzie has also been reviewing our museum loan boxes, which we are going to utilise over the Summer and at Liskeard Show. It is still our aspiration to trial administering the boxes through Liskeard Library (conversations are ongoing).

You can now get in touch with our Learning team directly by contacting learning@liskeardmuseum.co.uk.

LISKEARD UNLOCKED

Niall and Mark will be hosting a Foresters Hall – Immersive 3D Virtual Scan and Interactive Experience during this year's festival, sharing the data acquired through the 3D scan. Brian will be presenting his talk on Henry Rice on Friday, 19th September. Museum volunteers will also pop up outside the Pipewell on Saturday, 20th September.

MUSEUM'S NEW VISUAL IDENTITY

We have begun the rollout of our new logo and colour scheme across recent communications and all social media platforms. Branded marketing materials are currently being ordered to support the promotion of our refreshed visual identity to the wider community over the coming months. The Liskeard Show will provide the first major opportunity to showcase this updated branding. Additionally, our museum's website now reflects a more modern appearance following the implementation of minor branding adjustments.

VOLUNTEERING TEAM

We currently have 18 volunteers supporting our museum. Rose, our newest volunteer, has taken on the role of our Loans Volunteer. She has already started contacting our kind lenders and has been making a great progress.