

MUSEUM REPORT

July/August 2017

Liskeard Museum has been busy throughout the months of July and August with the management team/volunteers now beginning to look forward to and prepare for new or re-vamped displays for 2018.

Budget

Spending for the first quarter of the financial year is 19% of budget.

New Displays

Still in the early planning stages for 2018, benefitting from a Liskeard resident's private collection, emphasis will be on the past lives of people in Liskeard, in sickness and health.

In October Liskeard Museum will say farewell to the Plastic Age exhibition. This display by Rob Arnold has had national newspaper coverage and has attracted visitors to the museum from far and wide.

The Henry Rice Room will feature a new exhibition. The Toy Exhibition will continue, but the display will change and more information provided.

The Daniel Gumb room will change its focus to be more miner/people centric, and reflect their lives, in sickness and health and this theme will be extended in the John Rapson room.

It is planned to purchase one new display cabinet - fit for today's exhibitions. Early research into a cabinet that meets such criteria will be expensive but the money is currently in the budget. (See agenda item)

Audio/Visual Enhancement of the museum.

With thanks to Studio Wallop, there is now have a background sound system reflecting sounds above and below ground for miners in the Daniel Gumb room. This has added a warmth and atmosphere to the room which it did not have before.

This has also led to investigation into introducing Augmented Reality to the museum, and to this end, Studio Wallop have been asked to make a presentation at the next C&E meeting - since it will incur some expense. The museum team would like Councillors to understand what the proposal is.

Community Events

The Museum has continued to provide family activities in half-term and holidays which have been well attended.

Brian Oldham has been pivotal in exploring the Museum archives and then sharing his findings with walks and talks both for the museum and other interested parties.

Visitor Numbers and Feedback

Details are provided in the TIC report. When making comparison with last year, the Man Engine Event needs to be taken into account. Doing this, the museum numbers continue to be more than in the same period last year.

Since opening in February, we have had in excess of 3,000 visitors - excluding the talks and evening opening for special groups.

Volunteers

Two new, younger volunteers have started working in the museum this month, and a third is due to start in September. Attracting and keeping volunteers will always be a challenge, and this is not unique to Liskeard Museum. A 'thank you' lunch is being held this month.

Miscellaneous

St. Cleer Church has asked whether the Museum would like to have/accession their stocks. The Museum would like to accept them, but they are large. It was hoped they could fit in the museum entrance (they need to be kept dry and are currently under a table in the church.) It would be a shame to store them out of sight - not to mention the space they require. It was suggested that these stocks might be able to be kept on display in the Public Hall and the Councillors will be asked to consider this proposal.