

Liskeard Unlocked 2026

Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Mayor's Parlour at the Public Hall, Liskeard

Present: Councillor Rachel Brooks (Chair), Rachel Bennett (Stuart House and Churches Together), Iga Webb (Museum), Brian Oldham (Museum and OCS), Mary Utton (Liskeard Arts Society) and Mandy Hancock (Liskeard Town Council)

Festival dates Friday 11th – Sunday 20th September, 2026

Theme: Everyday Histories

1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Rachel Br welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ann Kinahan (Market Makers).</p>	
2	<p><u>Theme – Everyday Histories</u> Exploring daily working life through the ages</p> <p>Rachel Br gave an update on the Copper Lives grant application submitted to Natural Beauty & Beast Fund which had been unsuccessful. It had been oversubscribed and our event was mainly outside their timescales. She has made an enquiry to the Heritage Lottery Fund who should reply in 10 days to say if worth applying to them. The new project would include a permanent mining exhibition at The Museum. If the Lottery proved to be unsuitable then there is a smaller Museums fund which closes in April and less competitive. Rachel Br has scheduled a meeting in March to discuss the project which will be run separately to Liskeard Unlocked.</p> <p>Thoughts on possible events exploring the theme included:</p> <p>OCS Talk - Brian advised that the 2026/27 programme is set with a talk on Friday 11 September on working people at Graylands entitled Upstairs, Downstairs at Graylands.</p> <p>OCS Walk - Brian would lead a walk on Sunday 13 September stopping where owners were workers who employed working people. Mary offered to give access to her house to show where a girls school ran.</p> <p>Stuart House – Rachel Be offered to put together an exhibition on people from the House and the building process. Information could include workers of all classes and recent history. A gallery of photos from the OCS could be created. This could include all types of people, including disabled and children.</p>	<p>RBr</p> <p>BO</p> <p>BO</p> <p>MU</p> <p>RBe</p>

	<p>Boost – The Boost offer could include their injection moulding process and show working life of the future.</p> <p>Museum – There are examples of trades in each room, mining, costume maker, photographer. Iga suggested a Trail incorporating the changes over time. The working life of volunteers at Foresters Hall an a mini display of local photography through ages could be created.</p> <p>Iga said this could be an opportunity to consult on toy room changes.</p> <p>Iga will check if the event could also incorporate collecting oral history stories. The social media plan could ask if people would like to take part.</p> <p>Posters – Brian will create posters linked to his walk and the occupations at those premises. These had been well received in previous years. The locations will be considered at the next meeting and volunteers will be sought to approach the venues.</p> <p>Exploring work that doesn't exist any more. There are lots of craft people who do not make a living at their craft nowadays. These included gansey knitters, wood turners and spinners. Current crafters could be invited to give demonstrations of their craft and sell their items. Mandy has located the straw hat that was made a previous year.</p> <p>Rachel Br will produce a brief explaining what is wanted that the team can send out to their contacts to see what can be set up.</p> <p>Brian will create a list of occupations. Consideration was also given to external locations where skilled occupations could be demonstrated – Liskerrett Gardens, Pendean garden, Westbourne Gardens, Castle Park.</p> <p>Census – the Workhouse census shows occupations of residents. Brian also has a book of Trades and Occupations which he will drop to Mandy for scanning. This can be shared with the notes.</p> <p>It was suggested that creating displays with children in will gain their interest.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>IW</p> <p>IW</p> <p>BO</p> <p>MH</p> <p>RBr</p> <p>BO</p> <p>BO</p> <p>MH</p>
3	<p><u>Buildings Opening/Event Hosting</u></p> <p>The main opening day will be Saturday 12 September.</p> <p>Graylands – have never opened before and is being converted from a Register Office to a family residence. Brian has historic photos.</p> <p>Trewithan House – Brian will ask if they would like to take part again.</p> <p>Boost House – will be opening again.</p>	<p>BO</p> <p>BO</p>

	<p>Epworth Studios – will be asked to take part again.</p> <p>Library – will be asked to take part again. Perhaps hosting crafters?</p> <p>Pipewell – Iga and Mary will chat about hosting an event. The Pipewell being a big part of everyday life for residents to get water.</p> <p>Luxstowe House – has a bunker in the basement. Rachel Br will speak to Jane Pascoe regarding who to contact about possibly opening.</p> <p>Moghhe – will be approached.</p> <p>Bunkers – There are bunkers in the top corner of Castle Park, the telephone exchange at Bodgara Way and outside Graylands. Rachel Br will speak to Simon Cassidy to find a contact for the telephone exchange.</p> <p>Signal Box – Rachel Br will speak to Simon Cassidy regarding a contact for the signal box.</p> <p>Masonic Hall – Mandy has a new contact and will liaise.</p> <p>Liskeard Arts Society – Mary will ask the Committee if they would like their 8th September event to be included in the local publicity programme.</p> <p>Family History & Heritage event – Rachel Be advised that this was being held in the Public Hall on 5th September. It could also be included in local publicity.</p> <p>Pendean – are not opening.</p>	<p>IW / MU</p> <p>RBr</p> <p>RBr</p> <p>RBr</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MU</p> <p>RBr</p>
4	<p><u>Heritage Open Days Webinar</u></p> <p>Mandy gave a brief outline of tips from a Co-ordinators webinar provided by Heritage Open Days. The tips included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having hard deadlines to help with publicity and printing • Qwerky, short titles and images entice people in. • Good photos • Starting social media posts early, even from July • Over book by 20-30% for booked events and follow up 72 hours before with a reminder • Press releases to highlight new items or theme related events • Having people in photos • The Women’s Engineering Society cover the whole country and are more than happy to work with anyone on local research. Email helen.close@wes.org.uk if you want any support. 	<p>MH</p>

5	<p><u>Publicity</u></p> <p>Photographs of trades being carried out could form the basis of the images on the front of the flyer. Iga is about to do some training on copyright and will check the copyright implications.</p> <p>Mandy will contact Steve from Graphic Words to check if he is able to do our event flyer again this year.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>MH</p>
6	<p><u>Next Meetings</u></p> <p>The next meetings were scheduled for:</p> <p>Monday 30th March, 2pm in the Emily Hobhouse Room</p> <p>Wednesday 29th April, 2pm in the Mayor's Parlour</p>	