

Thirsk Museum Autumn Season Newsletter.

So much has been happening over the last few weeks that I hardly know where to start. Firstly we had Lexy working with us for six weeks. She is a history student from Leeds Trinity University, and her placement is part of her course. She has done an amazing amount of work especially transferring paper Accession records onto the computer. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work. She has also been coming in to continue working when she can just because she enjoys it so much. We have also had two students from Thirsk School for a week's work experience. I am sure that they learnt a lot and we enjoyed having them. We will be having two more next year so the school must be happy.

We have also been able to have one of the attic windows replaced. We paid for it with a grant that one of our new trustees (Gareth Dadd) managed to obtain for us, we are very grateful to him for all his work, filling in forms. The other attic window is also in a poor state of repair but we are hoping to get that one refurbished soon.

The committee and trustees have also updated the Thirsk Museum Society's Constitution. This needs to be agreed by the membership at a special AGM. This can be part of our first meeting in September. The updated Constitution will be forwarded to all paid up members before the meeting to allow everyone to read it.

The committee have also been very busy working on all the documentation required for us to work towards obtaining "Accreditation". This is a massive task even with the help of our Museum Mentor Susan Harrison, but we are confident that we will achieve it.

So far this season is going well and the comments in the visitors' book show that we are doing something right. I quote a few— "just what a museum should be, every town should have one". "A wonderful place packed with beautiful items". "Very interesting, lovely friendly staff".

We have also done a quiz for youngsters, just a simple sheet to encourage them to look for the answers and get a choc bar for trying. The choc bars are disappearing so it is obviously successful. For the younger ones we tell

them to decide what they like best and then when they leave we give them a small piece of card to write on. When we have collected enough we will make a collage to put in the window. It has cost nothing to create but it is proving very popular. They seem to like the bones, the chair and the toys best.

The autumn talks are all now booked and all should be really interesting. The first one Sept 22nd will be given by Keith Johnston from Scarborough. He contacted us this spring to ask if we had any information on the Thirsk Historical Play 1907 as he is a mature history student and this was the subject of his Dissertation. We have all the information including "Clarke" photos of all the main characters. He came to photograph them and as a thank you is doing our talk.

The Oct 27th talk will be given by David Tucker and is entitled "They put Thirsk on the map".

The November 24th one is by Tony Bardon on "The ever changing face of Thirsk".

We have also been contacted by The Scarborough Museums Trust to ask if they could use one of our photos of a poster advertising the Thirsk Historical Play. They are putting on a display about these pageants which were popular in Edwardian times. The exhibition is on at the Scarborough Art Gallery from 12th September to 10th October, so a day out to Scarborough to see it might be worth doing.

Mike Dodds made a plywood Drover four feet high who was dressed in black crochet and knitting. He went to the Great Yorkshire Show to help advertise Thirsk. We now have him in the Museum to display.

John Fisher is one of our stewards and has been in hospital. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery and hope that he will be able to return soon.

Finally, a reminder that 2016 subs were due from the AGM in May. £10 single and £18 for couples. The year runs from May to May. Anyone who would like to join the Museum Society and support our local museum, a membership form can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Museum. We are always pleased to welcome new members.