

Thirsk and District Museum Society

Summer Newsletter 2018



The Museum opened for the 2018 Season on Monday 26 March and closes on Saturday 3 November. We are now well over half way through the season and so far it has been successful with an increase in visitor numbers compared with last year. Visitors have come from all parts of the United Kingdom and also from many other different countries.

The comments in the visitors' book continue to indicate how the museum brings back memories and there are also many complimentary comments about the warm and friendly welcome shown by our stewards. The quiz for children continues to be very popular with all family members being involved. We have recruited five new stewards this year – Jill Coupe, Clive Harvard, Barbara Robins, Sue Walker and Stuart Whyte. In June we also were pleased to welcome back Anne and Fred Baines after Fred's illness. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and their help is greatly appreciated.

It is pleasing to record that we have had a number of group visits including Ilkley U3A, Stockesley Historical Society and the Easingwold Friends of the Children of Chernobyl. Future group visits involve East Yorkshire and Yarm Historical Societies. Some of these visits involved an additional guided tour of the town. Arthur Whitehead has given a talk about the museum to residents of The Limes and future talks will be given to Sowerby House and Sowerby Mothers' Union.

We have had several students spending periods of time on work experience in the museum. David Calvert from Leeds University spent six weeks with us and during this time he produced a room by room guide to the museum and also updated the information and photographs of our displays on the website.

We are very grateful for a generous donation given by Allan Webster's sister in his memory. We have used a part of this money to purchase a new printer – Allan would have appreciated this as the old printer drove him to frustration on many occasions.

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 24 May and was attended by 19 members of the Society, which was disappointing since there were some very important decisions to be made. The meeting was chaired by Ray Ballard and reports were given by the Chairman and Treasurer of the Management Committee.

The Officers of the Museum Society for 2018-2019 are:

Trustees: Ray Ballard (Chairman), Sue Dalton, Gareth Dadd, Janice Hall and Susan Stephenson.

Management Committee: Jim Seymour (Chairman), Andy Brook (Vice Chairman), Catriona Haig (Treasurer), Susan Harrison (Museum Mentor), Jeanne Hindmarch, Mike Pospieszalski and Susan Stephenson (Trustee). Since there was no nomination for the role of Secretary these duties are continued to be carried out by Jim Seymour and Andy Brook.

Following the AGM there was an Extraordinary Meeting which was chaired by Sue Dalton. Members of the Society unanimously agreed to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and approved the Revised Constitution including and change in name from Thirsk and District Museum Society to Thirsk Museum. Sue Dalton explained that, in order to maintain the long term security of the Charity, there was a necessity to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and that this involved a revised constitution and change in name of the organisation.

We have now completed the second year of our Five Year Forward Plan and have made considerable progress in many areas. The Arts Council has extended our working towards Accreditation for a further twelve months.

The museum is in need of major structural work to be carried out in order to deal with the problem of damp. A planning application has been submitted to Hambleton District Council so that the work can be carried out as funds are available. Since the museum is a listed building in a conservation area obtaining planning permission is proving not to be straight forward.

The autumn and spring talks are all now booked and should provide an interesting variety of topics. Talks start at 7.30pm and take place in Thirsk Town Hall Annexe. The first talk is on Thursday 27 September and will be given by David Tucker on the history of St. Oswald's Church Sowerby. **Please note that this talk will be held at St. Oswald's Church.** Further details will be sent in due course and we look forward to inviting you to these talks.

A reminder that if you have not already renewed your subscription for membership of the Society for 2018 – 2019 this is now due – single membership is £10 and joint membership is £18. Cheques should be made payable to Thirsk and District Museum Society and sent to the Treasurer at the Museum.

If you have not visited the museum this season do come along and see the changes in our displays. Also please encourage your friends to join the society and attend our talks. If you know of anybody who would be interested in volunteering at the museum please contact me.

Jim Seymour (Chairman of the Management Committee)