



Newsletter for Volunteers

July 2019

Barrington Weekes

The news of Barrington's death caused many of us who knew him much sadness. His contribution to the museum was invaluable. His images of Totnes past always provided an extra dimension to the story of our town and will continue to do so. Not many of us are able to leave such a legacy and hopefully that will be of comfort to his close friends and family. We are hoping that over the next year we will be able to put on a suitable memorial exhibition. We will be discussing that with his wife, Jo and the Trustees of the Image Bank. Your ideas too are welcome.

Accreditation update

Trustees are working hard to meet a revised deadline for submission for the end of August. There is so much to do of course, and we are having to revise almost all of our current policies. You will already have been asked to fill in a form about yourself as we need to have those details. We also have to be very careful to conform with the new data protection guidelines.

We are delighted that we now have 8 Trustees and another who will be co-opted at our next meeting, plus a volunteer museum advisor. For the first time, in a very long time we have a full quota of Trustees, the majority of whom have had museum experience elsewhere. This is very good news for us as we have fresh eyes to look at what we are offering to our visitors both local and tourist.

John Crellin will be continuing with his work in the kitchen, after discussions with the Trustees on the way forward and sharing the lessons learnt in using the collection. He is making it a space which meets the accreditation standards. Once it is finished, he will be setting up a way of getting feedback from visitors in the way that we did for the last exhibition.

Exhibitions.

Totnes Women's Voices exhibition

Appears to have been very well received. There were 43 written feedback forms in the basket, most showing real appreciation both of the exhibition and the women who worked so hard to win the vote. Should anyone come in and ask to see the film or the interviews, everything is still available. Please take a contact number from them and we can arrange for them to see it. Interestingly, the majority who voted wanted compulsory voting for all but did not want 16 year olds to have the Vote!

The WH Richards and Eric exhibition

Is fully installed. I think most people thought Eric would be bigger, but he is a character and exquisitely made by Dr Robin Hiley, a volunteer at the Science museum, especially for us. He has donated him for free. The exhibition itself was put together by Deborah Richards, WH Richards' granddaughter. She has done museum exhibitions before, as you can see it is a professional exhibition and well worth visiting. Many thanks to Sue King, who did an enormous amount of work in the background gathering evidence and objects. The touch screen has 4 films there which show WH and the original Eric plus the re-creation of Eric for the Science Museum.

As part of the project there has been a workshop at KEVICC for year 6 Grove children run by Plymouth University robotics team. The children, having never done anything like it before, made robots and programmed them in a day. Brilliant stuff! Another one of those is planned for September for KEVICC students.

Visitor Numbers and our finances.

So far, they are looking good. We have been open 2 weeks less than last year but have had as many visitors. We are also very close to getting at least £1 a head. Many thanks for all that you do to welcome and encourage our visitors.

October opening.

We would like to keep the museum open for as long as we can as every £1 helps, at least until the end of half term, that is Saturday 26th of October.

If you are able to give us any time during October, we would be very grateful. Please let Kate know if that's possible. Even if its not your regular day anything you can do will help.

Many thanks again for your ongoing and invaluable support of our museum

Tony Whitty

Chair of the Totnes Museum Trust