

## **Annual Report to Area West Committee on Chard & District Museum**

This has been an exciting year for Chard & District Museum with the 45th Anniversary Open Day, which coincided with Chard Festival Weekend. Money raised on this day exceeded £600 and saw significant visitor numbers. In addition to this day, the Museum has held an Open Day on the morning of Chard Carnival, and is planning a Christmas Concert in the barn on Friday 27th November.

Facebook, publicity and photographic exhibitions have been key successes, though, more plans to raise footfall are already in place for next year. Holyrood Academy have been approached regarding an increased involvement with students in the Sixth Form, the focus being displays, projects, and a trial for this is due to take place over the Museum's closed period.

There is a sad tinge to the end of this year, with Chairman David Ricketts handing over the reins to Vince Lean, a huge thank you to all the work that David has done, and undoubtedly Vince will continue with this. Financially, the latest figures to the beginning of October show income below budget, and unable to increase due to the winter closure. However, other grants and donations have been double the budgeted amount which puts the museum hopefully back on an even keel.

The other point of note is the new Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy which was approved in November 2014 by SSDC, the outcome of this is a 10% discretionary business rate on Chard Museum. This translates into approximately £1,084 which is likely to impact on next years income.

Cllr Amanda Broom