

## **Crewkerne Heritage Centre & Museum**

### Management Team report for Trustees' meeting August 2016

We have had a busy season since the AGM in May with new exhibitions, new activities and new volunteers.

The first well researched exhibition presented by Peter Wingrave on the architecture of the town was very well received and enjoyed by visitors. The second exhibition on changes to the town since WWII has engaged the public in a different way bringing in local people who are remembering events and filling in names. The last exhibition of the year will focus on carnivals, fairs and fetes and will open on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to coincide with Fair weekend.

A guided walk around the town factory sites by Richard Sims, author of the history of the local factories, was enjoyed by a group of 20. Richard has offered to do more tours for us in the future. Richard is also using the museum as a starting point for guided tours for 3 additional groups bringing in visitors and some donations. A musical evening with Julian Dawson linked to the current exhibition recently was sold out and again was enjoyed by a full house. An offer of another event followed from the performer and we were pleased to raise around £250 from both occasions. Local artist David Brackston has recently held an exhibition of his work in the Andrew Room bringing in more visitors and a fee for hire of the space.

A visit from Haselbury Plucknett 1<sup>st</sup> School to work on WWII proved successful and U3A History group also visited to view WWII related material. A local pre-school group, Little Nippers, enjoyed working in the old kitchen doing the washing and baking cakes.

The museum had a stand at the Town fete and we were busy entertaining almost 100 people with old fashioned games, news cutting and photos. We also sold a few shop items.

The new Ralph Reader exhibit was well received by the London Gang Show organisation who visited and also presented us with a donation. We are grateful to Tony Cooper for donating scouts material from his father to enhance the display.

We have been given a boost in advertising recently with the launch of our site on Google by Steve Paine who has set it up without charge as part of his portfolio. We can also track visits to the site and it will be interesting to compare visitor figures in future.

We have gained some new volunteers to work as stewards and with the collection and research this season. This has enabled us to carry out a full audit of collection boxes and encourage researchers to work on their own particular interests. The latter may contribute to exhibitions and valuable research material in the future.

A Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award student has worked with us for 3 months in a variety of tasks which have all contributed to the work of the museum. We now have a lending library and a full stock take of shop items as well as help with coffee mornings with the help of the student.

Organisation of the stewards has been taken in hand by Pat Loader with some help from myself. We have devised a method of allocating duties which makes less paperwork and is presenting few problems to date. Our new stewards are working well and taking an interest in the museum and presenting a helpful and cheerful face to visitors.

Discussions on the future of the shop are current and, after analysis of sales, the Management Team proposes making changes to reduce stocks of toys drastically and limit

the stock to lower cost “pocket money” toys, Crewkerne souvenirs and the books and cards that we have in stock. This item will be on the agenda of the Joint meeting with the Friends to be held in September.

Plans for Art in the Museum are in place and we have 3 registrations to date. Further advertising for this event will go out soon and we hope to have a wide variety of art and craft workers exhibiting.

Janet Harris

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