

Saffron Walden Museum Society

Report to Museum Management Task Group : 31 October, 2005

The Museum Society Management Committee met on 21st July and 27th October. The Executive Committee has also met twice, on 10 August and 5 October.

Constitution

A copy of the Resolution accepting the revised Constitution which was passed at the Annual General Meeting on 30 June, 2005, has been sent to the Charity Commission; their formal acceptance is still awaited although the new Constitution appears on the web site.

Heritage Quest Centre

There is some concern that the role required of the Society in relation to the acceptance of donations could be considered to be outside what should be expected of the Trustees. The Hon. Treasurer has written to the Charity Commission, as has the fundraiser, Martin Shaw. The Society's officers to discuss with the Chairman of Community & Leisure Committee.

Forward Plan

The Executive Committee provided suggestions to the Curator for inclusion in the Forward Plan.

Membership

Membership campaigns

Most of the 12 organisations participating in the town have been given additional supplies of application leaflets; however, very few applications for membership can be traced to this particular initiative. A Special Offer to attract new members is shortly to be advertised on the Society's section of the noticeboard in the Museum. Gift Vouchers, to enable membership to be given as a gift, have been up-dated and advertised in the Autumn newsletter. Those members whose subscriptions appear to be in arrears are being approached.

Informal liaison has been set up with two organisations - the Historical Society and the Royal Society of St George - for the exchange of programme information; this will be advertised to those attending the Society's monthly talks at the Museum. Members from each Society will be welcomed by the others at their events.

The use of e-mail to publicise the Society's events has been used not only for the local press, but also extended to include organisations such as the YHA in Myddylton Place. Contact is being made with the Local History Recorders in Uttlesford to include them where possible in publicity about Society events etc.

Private Preview of Special Exhibition: Silk, Fur and Cotton - Costumes of China

Following the donation of a collection of Chinese costumes which will form the next exhibition, the Museum Society is arranging a Private Viewing for members on Friday, 11 November. Invitations will be issued. It is hoped that a good number of UDC Councillors will be able to attend.

Acquisitions

A number of acquisitions have been made. A silver gilt dress pin for which a Dept of Culture, Media and Sport letter was required: a silver gilt pilgrim badge from Takeley: a post mediaeval silver button, found at Ashdon, would be made available to the Museum anonymously. The 1815 print of Saffron Walden has now been cleaned and mounted.

Repatriation of Maori tattooed heads

A delegation from New Zealand is expected in November. The Society agreed many months ago in response to an approach from the National Museum of New Zealand that it would be right for these items should be repatriated. They had been removed from display many years ago by former Curator, Len Pole.

Newsletter

Having regard to comments made at the last MMTG, an item was included in the Society's Autumn newsletter asking members for their views on the name of the Museum.