

**Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 26th February 2014
Museum Society Chairman's Report**

The Highlight of last autumn was the opening of the "Re-Imagining Egypt" exhibition. We were very fortunate to have the active support of the artist Khalid Hafez with Gemma Tully in the curation of the Exhibits. The support of two local schools that produced work for display together with new work created by Khalid especially for this Exhibition has been appreciated both by members and by the public visitors.

The Appeal for the Treasure items has been very successful and we have been able to raise sufficient funds to add to the grants obtained by the Curator to secure all the items we wanted. The Society will host an evening to thank both "Finders and Funders" in April. The Board will be considering the details of this meeting and also a further evening for members tomorrow evening. Some will be sorry to see the departure of our "Roman Potter" from the Great Hall but he had served his time! His place is to be taken by a new display which will be enhanced by the removal of the large table to give greater access. It will also have the benefit of giving a larger space for our social activities.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed off the plans for the new store last month. The agreed Programme provides for "handover" on the 30th June. Subject to the raising of funds the installation of racking will be followed by the transfer of the contents from Newport to the new store. The Support Committee is now helping the Museum staff with the planning for the move of the contents from the Newport store in early July. The next Exhibition (opens 8 March) "Secrets from the Stores" will elicit public support and volunteers for the storage project. The Board will be considering the planning for the re-development of the Museum site and will take account of the work to be carried out on the Castle.

The Support Committee undertook a skills audit of members to promote volunteering. As a result we have appointed a new web master and an up-date of the web site is in progress. The Support Committee would like to link this to the Council's web site to enhance the information available on the web and to raise the profile of the Museum. A further appointment is Judith Rodden who will help with publicity. Further volunteers are being recruited.

Finally the Board will be asked to agree to donate the Jobmaster's wagon to the Burwell Museum. This wagon was owned by J.Carter of Burwell and some of his descendants remember riding on this! We are considering a visit to this Museum later this year. We have also obtained the possibility of an extension of the tenancy of the Barn and the Board will be asked to approve this extension for a further six months tomorrow. The future of the remaining vehicles must now be considered.

Tony Watson
17th February 2014.