

**Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 1st March 2017
Museum Society Chairman's Report**

Volunteers working for the Museum were thanked by both the Museum Society and the Council at a tea party on the 6th December 2016. Following an introduction by the Curator the Volunteers were thanked by the Chairman Tony Watson on behalf of the Society and this included most of the Directors! Further thanks on behalf of the Council were given by Dawn French Chief Executive of the Council. Certificates of long service were presented to Volunteers with over ten years service. Some 40 Volunteers were present.

The Society held its Christmas party on the 12th December which had a variation on the quiz. The Vice-Chairman Paul Salvidge and his wife Heather devised a series of questions some of which could only be answered if you had a good knowledge of history outside the Museum.

On the 27th January the Society members had a pre-view of the latest exhibition "Completing the Look: 300 Years of Fashion Accessories". Leah Mellors who has curated this exhibition has brought together lots of fashion accessories from the Museum collection and also from members and other museums. Leah should be rewarded by not only the large attendance on the 27th January but also be visitors to the museum over the next six months. We were pleased that Dawn French and some Councillors joined us on this occasion.

Further to my report last October the Curator and the Chairman have met with representatives of the Church and Saffron Walden Town Team to form a Heritage Development Team to co-ordinate the Heritage assets of the town. David Tomlinson (St.Mary's Church) and the Chairman were asked to discuss the possible inclusion of the Castle within this group with the Council and we are meeting with the leader, Howard Rolfe, on the 10th March for an initial discussion. The Curator and the Chairman have also met with Saffron Walden Initiative and the Town Library Society to discuss the future development of the Heritage sites in the centre of the town.

The Spring series of talks, organised by Carol Law, began in January with a talk by Malcolm White on Saffron Walden Place names and was followed by Treasurer Peter Walker in February with a talk on Maps of Essex.

Tony Watson.
24th February 2017.