

Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 30th April 2014
Museum Society Chairman's Report

As I reported in February 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 total expenditure for five items of treasure was in excess of £61,000.00., the largest part of this came from donations from the V & A Purchase Grant Fund, The Headley Trust, The Art Fund, The Beecroft Bequest and the Essex Heritage Trust, with the balance coming from local donations and from the Societies Acquisition Fund. The Society hosted an evening to thank both "Finders and Funders" on the 4th April. There was an attendance of 66 Guests supported by the Society Directors, UDC officers and Councillor Jim Ketteridge. The Museum has received plenty of coverage in the local press.

Earlier on the 21st March Keith Eden, as Mayor, and the Society Chairman were able to accept the gift of upwards of £500.00., for the "Chair for Flossie Gedney" appeal. As a result the Museum will soon benefit from the delivery of eight new chairs for the Galleries.

The Support Committee have discussed improvements to the Societies Web site with the new web master. The Support Committee hope to discuss linking this to the Council's web site in due course.

The Board agreed to donate the Jobmaster's wagon to the Burwell Museum. We have also extended the tenancy of the Barn until September. The future of the remaining vehicles must now be considered.

As a result of the survey for the condition of 40 Castle Street, following discussion with Council officers, the Board agreed to bring forward the proposed sale of the property. It is uneconomic to repair and let. The Council have been asked to surrender the lease of 40 Castle Street and the small garage area off Castle Street to enable the Society to proceed with the sale. Messrs Cheffins have been instructed to offer the property for sale at a guide price of £500,000.00. The Chairman has agreed the area required for access to the garage area with the adjoining owner of 50 Castle Street. The property is now being marketed.

Tony Watson
23rd April 2014.