

1 Museum Management and Staff

1.1 Management

This quarter has seen a busy Easter holiday period in April, with a new special exhibition *All Fired Up!* followed by a relatively quiet May and June, with the exception of the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday.

Museum Development project

Much staff time was devoted to preparation of the Stage 1 Development Grant Application for the National Lottery Heritage Fund, due for submission at the end of May. Discussions were held with NLHF officers to two issues: firstly, the impact of current rates of inflation and supply issues with the building industry, and the affect of this on capital costs; and secondly, the additional Heritage Impact Assessments which the Museum was recently advised to commission as a result of pre-application planning advice from Historic England and Essex County Council Place Services. Discussions with the NLHF led to the postponement of the grant application so that we can mitigate the financial and planning risks to the project by undertaking the HIAs before the Development stage and re-assess the capital costs in the light of the HIAs and recent inflation. It will help us to formulate options to deal with any potential problems identified with costs or planning issues on such a historically-sensitive site.

Staff, Volunteers and Work Experience

We welcome the appointment of Museum Assistant (casual contract) Tom Holloway to a permanent Visitor Services Assistant post. Our Volunteers' Tea Party was held on 28 June to thank our team of volunteers, and provide an opportunity for socialising, updates from Museum staff and a reminder of fire drill and alarm signals.

2 Buildings and Site

Museum Building

The Council's interim Property Surveyor Graham Shipps is pressing ahead with plans to renew the Museum's aged and failing boilers before the winter, with a system appropriate for our historic building. A routine Fire Safety inspection has been undertaken at the Museum and we understand there are no significant issues.

Castle and Museum Site

In liaison with Grounds Maintenance, we arranged for large areas of the Castle grass area to be left unmown this spring, but with broad paths cut for access across the site and between areas, and the Castle keep and events area kept cut. This has allowed wild flowering plants naturally present on the site to flourish and an initial botanical survey at the end of June identified two potentially rare species. We plan further surveys to assess the habitat potential for the site for environmental learning and activities, and further measures to encourage biodiversity.

Shirehill Store

The repairs on the lift have been completed and it is functioning again.

3 Collections and Research

Acquisitions, collections, enquiries and research continue steadily and will be itemised in the full Quarterly report.

Greater in Spirit, Larger in Outlook

Epping Forest District Museum in Waltham Abbey and Saffron Walden Museum have received an Arts Council National Lottery project grant of £100,000 to work in partnership on their world culture collections. The aim of the project is to ensure the museums and their collections reflect their diverse communities by working directly with cultural groups to research different objects and tell their stories. Both museums are looking to work with relevant community and cultural groups linked to these collections which will lead to a major temporary exhibition and events in 2023. We've recently recruited the two project roles, Community and Collections Connectors.

Loan Out

A reticule bag related to the abolition of the slave trade will go on temporary display in Saffron Walden Library as part of a Black Lives in Uttlesford display, which we hope will move to the museum's Your Stories section later this year. This loan out represents an ongoing relationship with Saffron Walden Library and the Gibson Library to share collections knowledge and display each others collections.

4 Displays and Visitor Services

Temporary exhibition **All Fired Up: a history of firefighting in Essex** with the Essex Fire Museum ran from April to June. Unfortunately the private view and the Museum Society's related talk were cancelled due to Covid. Mick Ford from Essex Fire Museum's talk has now been rescheduled until September. Despite the private view being cancelled the exhibition launched to the public on Sat 3 April. This included a minute's silence for former Saffron Walden station chief David Curtis, which was attended by Saffron Walden Fire Brigade and David Curtis' family. His son, Paul Curtis is the current station chief, and met with us frequently about the history of the brigade in the run up to the exhibition. The launch event was also attended by Chris Phillipson, the last remaining Saffron Walden firefighter who had attended the Rose & Crown fire in 1969 and Paul Wood, author of *From Station Officer Drane*, about the Rose & Crown fire. Paul Start, a private collector brought a display along of fire brigade equipment and memorabilia, which he showed in the grounds of the museum.

Object of the Month has continued online and in the Saffron Walden Flyer:

April	Charred key fob, Rose & Crown Fire, Boxing Day 1969 (All Fired Up exhibition)	Human History JO
May	Butterfly specimens of species to see in May	Natural Sciences SK
June	Hen harrier (Lost Language of Nature Project)	Natural Sciences JL

Your Stories: (Collections Officer, Human History)

April - May	Snapping the Stiletto, Schools art project
June	Platinum Jubilee

Visitor Services

Visitors total this quarter : 1,534 general public not including schools

Category	April	May	June	Total
Child Admission	237	69	114	420
Adult Admission	415	279	314	1008
Free Admission	48	23	35	106
Sub Total (excl schools)	700	371	463	1534

Income from Admissions, Shop and Donations

Income Category	April	May	June	Total (£)
Admission	884.00	558.00	652.25	2,094.25
Shop - Books	52.36	44.44	30.46	127.26
Shop - Souvenirs	492.36	513.11	220.18	1,225.65
Donations	2.75	2.00	51.99	56.74
Sub Total:	1,431.47	1,117.55	954.88	3,503.90

Saffron Walden Museum Website

	Visits	Unique Visitors
April	11,502	5,104
May	7,672	4,444
June	8,630	3,874
TOTAL for Q1	27,804	13,422

5 Education, Events and Outreach

Learning & Outreach

Income from Learning and Outreach this quarter totals **£943**

April – loans boxes £90 and Activities £385

May – Schools sessions £312 (3 schools) including a 'Viking Day' for 60 pupils

June – Loan boxes £78 and Activities £78

Events on-site (in Museum and grounds and at Shire Hill Store)

The main events this quarter were Easter holiday activities, a Platinum Jubilee Activity Pack and on Saturday 4 June a partnership event with Saffron Walden Town Council who organised the live outdoor screening of the Buckingham Palace Jubilee Concert in the Museum & Castle grounds. Around 300 attended and 199 concert-goers came into the Museum where special Jubilee displays were on show: a sample of the Queen's Coronation dress; a straw plait crown made in Coronation year by a Wimbish thatcher, and a selection of pre- and post- decimal currency from the Queen's reign.