

Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 10th September 2018
Museum Society Chairman's Report

This report covers one of the longest periods of the year. It has been a "time of change". With the considerable contribution by Board member Christine Sharpe we have dealt with the effects of "General Data Protection Regulations" and up dated our paperwork and policies to ensure compliance.

The AGM re-elected three directors Christine Sharpe, Peter Walker and me. The Chairman and the Treasurer were both re-elected for the next year. The Board has still to find a replacement for Sue Hollingworth as Secretary who retired at the AGM last month and was elected as a Vice President. Keith Eden was re-elected as a Vice President.

Our winter series of talks come to an end in June with thanks to Vice-Chairman Paul Salvidge for the last set of talks this year. We have ranged from the Houses of Parliament, to Treasures of the Museum, the Friends' School, the Fens and George Stacy Gibson. We have heard from a present and a past Curator, from Sue Kenyon, Jeremy Collingworth and even me! Plans are well in hand for next season which starts this evening.

The Development Committee continues to support the Curator in moving forward the planning for the next developments of the Museum. Now that the post of Collections officer has been filled by Jenny Oxley the progress on the Lottery application can now be progressed

Following the success of the previous exhibition "*From the Hazely Brick Earth: Agriculture in North-West Essex*" curated by Leah Mellors we learned of her success in her appointment as Curator to the Ripon Museums. On the 10th May a number of members gathered with staff to thank her for her time at our Museum and wish her well in her future career. On the 11th June directors joined staff in thanking the volunteers for their contributions during the last year and the Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council presented awards. The Museum also received its fourth award by Trip Advisor. Sarah Kenyon was also able to report on her job share with new member of staff James Lumbard. Leah left before we heard that our offer for the Piano in which the hoard of coins was found had been accepted, so we thank her for her efforts in bidding for this. We have already received some of the coins from the hoard to fill blanks in our collection. We look forward to trying to find space for the piano later this year.

On 16th June we had the "Wallace Great Bake Off". This new event was the creation of Charlotte Pratt to provide a fund raising event for the Society and to provide entertainment for both children and adults. There was strong support from the society, setting up gazebos, collecting entries and supervising the judging. The weather was kind to us, no rain. The winners, both children could teach us all how to bake!

The "Saffron Walden Heritage Development Group" was launched at the "Battle Ditches" on the 5th July. Charlotte Pratt has also curated the latest exhibition "Worlds under Glass: Adventures in Taxidermy, which was previewed by the Society on the 10th August. We have also recently received the laid up standard from the Saffron Walden Branch of the British Legion. It has been a very busy few months with close co-operation between the Society and the Museum staff.

Tony Watson