

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2020

Agenda item 8: Report of the Collections Officer

1. Collections

- 1.1 The Collections Officer has returned to working in the office since the museum reopened to the public on 5th September 2020.
- 1.2 One of the collections volunteers has also returned to resume work on a cataloguing project.
- 1.3 The Collections Officer continues to publish the Abingdon Museum Blog, with technical assistance from Museum Assistant Valeria Cambule and input from other museum team members.
- 1.4 The museum has been offered some of the stones from the Covid 19 snake which has been assembled from painted and decorated stones by a community project around the fire station. This is an excellent opportunity for contemporary collecting and documenting a current community event in Abingdon. The Collections Officer will liaise with the administrator of the snake project to arrange the collection.
- 1.5 The museum received a visit from two researchers from Portsmouth University who looked at the Ichthyosaur skeleton on display in the Attic. They have thrown new light onto the Ichthyosaur, discounting the previous identification as Ophthalmosaurus and suggesting that it might even be a new species. They have also corrected the arrangement of the bones in the case, some of which had been misidentified. Their analysis has given us a new narrative for the Ichthyosaur and enhanced our knowledge about the specimen.

2. Exhibitions

- 2.1 The museum has put the planned exhibition programme on hold until next year. Instead a temporary exhibition called “Rewind” has been devised, which present highlights from past exhibitions. It includes panels from the Rubbish exhibition, Geoff Dunbar, Mr Hemmings Hat, the Fair and Bun Throwing as well as video material and a display of Buns. We have also used two of the temporary display cases to exhibit objects which complement the MG, such as Don Hayter’s tools and Ron Jewson’s model MG collection.

2.2 The exhibition plan for 2020/2021 is as follows:

DATE	SESSIONS GALLERY	ATTIC GALLERY
5 September – 23 December	Rewind	Proud Tradition
9 January – 28 March 2021	David Melling: Illustrating Wildlife	Proud Tradition?
5 April – 27 June 2021	Abingdon Treasures – Haptic Art	Proud Tradition?
5 July – 26 September 2021	Morland's brewery – a family business	Proud Tradition?
4 October – 23 December 2021	Kate Hammersley	Proud Tradition?

Elin Bornemann
Collections Officer
25th September 2020