

County Hall Museum Management Committee Report

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 12th March 2019.

Another good year for Museum with visitor numbers at a consistent 20,000 a year and operating within budget. The voluntary visitor donations are expected to be about £6,000 this year. Income from roof visits were down despite a good summer perhaps it was too hot up there!

There were exhibitions about the Great War coinciding with the anniversary of the ending of WW1 In November. We were fortunate to get a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to frame some WW1 posters and these were displayed in St Nicolas Church as well as in the Museum. Forthcoming exhibitions in the summer will be Rubbish! The archaeology of the future and past. In the autumn Aspects of Abingdon through the eyes of artists and photographers.

School visits are popular along with school holiday activities. In October Elin, the Collections Officer and Bob Frampton, a volunteer gave an informal talk to residents at Nicolson House. Bob writes books of local interest including about Abingdon in WW1 and the MG factory. He has generously asked to donate royalties for a prize for an essay written by local children one for those at Primary School and another for those at Secondary School. The title of the first one will be 'What is my family doing about recycling? Could they do more?'

The staff have settled after the previous Manager moved on in March. Dan, Elin and Tristan work well together and are ably supported by the other members of staff and volunteers. The Museum volunteers were awarded a Vale Community Award for their interest, diligence and work. Visitors to the Museum say how their visit is enhanced by their knowledge of history and the Museum.

My thanks go Susan Whipp, the staff and volunteers for their work and dedication to the Museum. Thanks also to the Museum Friends who support us and to Peter Clare who is a co-opted member of the Management Committee.

Monica Lovatt 12/03/2019.