

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

We currently have 20 volunteers on our books. Some come in regularly, others choose to engage with us on specific projects and work from the comfort of their home. The atmosphere is a positive and supportive one. We have returned to more regular whole team meetings, which will now be taking place 4 times/year, in addition to the Museum Management Team meetings (also 4 times/year). This is to ensure all volunteers are kept up-to-date and are offered equal opportunities to engage with our work, and voice their opinions. Thank you to Liskeard Town Council for letting us use the space at the Public Hall to host the meetings.

## MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Over Easter, our offer included free workshops: 'Cornish baddies!' Creative Writing for 11–16-year-olds, and 'Awesome Objects' interactive session for 16 years+, which explored the idea of curatorship, attaching meaning to objects, and gave the participants a better understanding of how we work at the museum. Both were well received, and we feel encouraged to keep offering similar activities in the future. We also hosted Brian Oldham's talk on 'Trades and Occupations in 19<sup>th</sup> century Liskeard', which was a ticketed event, and was well attended. Moving forward, we would like to develop ideas for regular, term-time activities, too. We plan on exploring the theme of 'curatorship' further over May half-term.

## TRIP TO THE BOX

On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, myself and 3 of our volunteers benefitted from a 'behind the scenes' tour of The Box in Plymouth. The trip had been organised by the Southeast Cornwall Museums Forum. It was a great opportunity to get direct advice from professional archivists and assess our working methods against those of a large museum. We also made useful connections with The Box Media Archive, whom we might approach for support with digitisation and storage of John Rapson's collection of negatives.

## LISKEARD'S COMMUNITY FAIR

Thank you to our volunteers, Hannah and Jayne, who represented Liskeard & District Museum at the fair. The event was enjoyed by all, and we felt proud to have taken part. I took the opportunity to meet some of the local businesses and groups, which I am hopeful might lead to some interesting collaborations in near future.

## BEYOND PARADISE

It was a pleasure to see Foresters Hall appear as one of the locations for 'Beyond Paradise' on BBC1 on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. I trust I speak for everyone involved in our museum, and the TIC, when I say that it is a great privilege to look after Henry Rice's splendid building and fill it with life and history. Local audiences appear to have felt proud to see their local landmark represented on national TV, and we were overwhelmed with positive comments, such as: 'it looked brilliant', 'love the museum', 'wonderful stuff', 'great work', the museum will become a tourist hot spot now', 'great seeing Pike Street and the Museum on TV'. The filming crew left some props for us to be displayed after the episode airs, which will take place shortly.

## WORK EXPERIENCE & SCHOOL VISITS

We continue to receive regular enquiries about student placements with us – we have filled our place for this year. We are also expecting a visit from Dobwalls Primary School later this month, which will include a tour around the Museum and a workshop led by Brian Oldham.