

THE STORY OF EMILY (SoE)

Following a very positive meeting with the SoE Attractions & Retail Manager and Researcher, I can confirm that 2025 will see not just the one, but two collaborations between our museum and this exciting new landmark. The SoE will work alongside our volunteer, Sally, to produce research in relation to Kate & Leonard Courtney and their friendship with Emily Hobhouse. I would like to thank the SoE General Manager and the funders behind the SoE for their generous match funding (£3,000) that will help us conserve Lady Kate's portrait following conservator's recommendations.

The SoE will also curate a separate, semi-permanent exhibit dedicated to Emily that will feature in our new display in John Rapson gallery. Both projects are scheduled to complete by the end of 2025.

On November 29th, our museum volunteers will benefit from a free trip to the SoE, sponsored by Liskeard Town Council. There is a lot of excitement about this within the team.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM & CHRISTMAS

Due to multiple projects happening 'behind the scenes' at the museum, we had to settle on a modest offer of children's activities over October half-term this year. A wonderful mini Beast of Bodmin Moor trail was prepared by our Duke of Edinburgh student, Ella. Brian Oldham repeated his *Liskeard & District Migrants in the Great Cornish Emigration* talk, which had premiered at Liskeard Library in September as part of Liskeard Unlocked. The event was very well received, with the income from tickets and book sales going back to the museum.

We are now turning our attention to Christmas. The festivities will begin on November 30th, in line with the rest of the town. We have already publicised a detailed programme of events for the night, including our own Christmas lights switch-on with costumed volunteers at Foresters Hall at 16:30 (everyone is welcome). The visitors will also be able to take part in free paper snowflakes decoration making workshops with volunteer Shannon on December 7th and 14th and take a family photo against our festive backdrop.

MUSEUM TEAM

Our recently recruited volunteers are settling in very well and have contributed a lot to the team already. Our Digital Enhancement Volunteer has been working on a virtual tour that offers a lot of potential for communications & engagement, learning, accessibility, and planning for future displays. He has also 3D-scanned a couple of museum artefacts, which illustrated the possibilities of cataloguing advancement, increasing museum's revenue, possibly even a unique service open to the community (digitising 'treasured objects'). Our new Collection volunteer has been dutifully reviewing our museum loans and is now turning her attention to updating our museum's processes and procedures.

MUSEUM TRAINING

In the museum world, Autumn is often a period dedicated to training and new skills development. I and a few of our museum volunteers have benefitted from free training with Museum Development South West, which will undoubtedly feed into everyday work and boost confidence in fulfilling our individual roles at the museum.

FORWARD PLAN 2024 – 2028

The new plan for the museum has now been finalised and we are eagerly awaiting the councillors' consideration on November 14th. I would like to thank our museum volunteers for their input and support.