

## ON DISPLAY! 2024 – GRANT FROM MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT SOUTH WEST

I am very pleased to announce that we have been successful with a funding application to conserve one of our recent donations – a large, framed portrait of Lady Catherine Courtney, wife of Lord Leonard Courtney (MP for Liskeard). The £2,500 will cover conservation work only; we plan to utilise museum reserves to put together a mini display that will accompany the portrait. The working title of the display is 'Peacemakers'. The focus will be on friendship and mentorship between the Courtneys and Ms Emily Hobhouse. It is my hope that we can work in partnership with the recently opened Story of Emily in St Ive, who have expressed their support and interest in the project.

## LISKEARD CULTURE COLLECTIVE & MARVELLOUS HISTORIES

Our museum has recently become a part of Liskeard Culture Collective (working name). The aim of the group is to establish new ways to work together, share effective practices and offer a more cohesive range of activities for our community. As an attempt to put this into practice, we have decided to link our Summer offer with Liskeard Library's reading challenge, Marvellous Makers. Our programme will be called 'Marvellous Histories', and it will run between July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>. The offer includes children's historical book corner, display on the original Passmore Edwards Library, tributes to John Allen and Emily Hobhouse, crafts, as well as a selection of free and ticketed workshops and talks, including two lectures on Emily Hobhouse which sold out last year.

## RAPSON COLLECTION & THE BOX, PLYMOUTH

Our partnership with The Box continues to develop. We have been presented with a kind offer to store John Rapson negatives in media archives at The Box. The conditions for storage are perfect, and we will have access when required. Myself and one of museum volunteers, Kevin, have been busy transferring high volumes of negatives (7,083 to date, and counting!) to archival storage boxes, which will be deposited at The Box at the end of the month. The collection is currently stored in the Members' Room at the Public Hall – there is pressure to finalise the works as soon as possible, due to contractors starting building work in the room in a few weeks' time.

The Rapson project is an ambitious one – it is bound to prove highly rewarding, too. Although it is likely to take at least 2 years to digitise the collection, there will be lots of opportunities for community involvement, and skills development within our museum team.

## LISKEARD UNLOCKED – 'Routes, Networks, Connections'

Our contribution to Liskeard Unlocked 2024 is finally taking its shape. We will put on two temporary displays: 'Station Road – THE place to live', which will focus on the houses that appeared between Liskeard Station and the town centre following the opening of the main line; and 'Well connected' – exploring the interconnectedness of Liskeard and surrounding villages through local wells. The festival participants will also be invited to visit the Pipewell on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-13:00, as part of a small event titled 'Wondrous Well of Lyskiret'. Period costumes, trinkets and chatty museum volunteers to be expected!

## FINDS DAY

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Finds Day at the Museum, organised by Cornwall Portable Antiquities Scheme. Most of the slots were filled and there is a high likelihood that we will host again next year. Returns Day has been scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> (11am-2pm).

## HOLYER NOMINATIONS

Last, but not least – we are very proud of our volunteer, Brian Oldham, whose book 'More Peeks into Liskeard's Past' has been shortlisted in Gorsedh Kernow's Holyer an Gof Awards scheme this year. The presentation ceremony will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Kresen Kernow in Redruth.