**CURATOR’S REPORT NOVEMBER 2023**

Steve Robotham and Rob Gordon attended the Sussex Museum’s Group meeting at Lewes on the 20th October.

Stephanie Richards has had one of two small groups coming to the museum to look at the costume collection.

Leo Jago and I met Amy Junker-Heslip, the South East England Museum’s Development Office, on the 10th October to discuss possible sites for storage of museum objects. She later got back to us saying that Fishbourne Museum offer storage space for £300 per square metre per year. The issue of storage will be discussed when we meet Horsham, Storrington and Amberley Museum’s on the 12th January. It was mentioned at the recent Friends committee meeting that the Wild Violets W.I. have taken over the storage cupboard in The Henfield Hall previously occupied by the bridge club. This was space which we hoped would be offered to us.

Amy was able to supply us with temperature and relative humidity equipment, and charts, which were surplus to requirements at Brighton Museum.

A group from the museum committee met in the museum on the 25th October to run through disaster training. Various points were raised regarding the disaster plan including: (a) The need for a key cabinet to hold the museum keys individually. (b) Possibly problems in getting the larger objects such as the wheeled stretcher out of the museum. (c) Priority of removing objects to be reassessed, and items added such as the wall clock and the new display case. (d) Make use of the emergency fire exit. (d) Include David Hubner on the Rescue Team to cover for the absence of David Phillipson. (e) Include rescue vehicles in the plan to get museum objects to a temporary store. (f) A replacement for David Sayers to be found at the Free Church.

We had requests from St Peter’s School for help with WW2 projects which they are doing this term. I provided them with a PowerPoint presentation of photos and maps of Henfield in the 1930s and 1940s for a project looking at the development which has taken place since the war.

This month Steve Robotham and Clive Funnell have put on a temporary display marking the 70th anniversary of the Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men, and Stephanie Richards has put on display Dave Lancaster’s able seaman’s uniform, and the pair of stays found in the old workhouse roof.

Recent donations to be considered for accessioning are: Letters and estimates for carrying out work on Cruttenden’s shop in the 1930s and a letter regarding the death of Harold Cruttenden in WW1, Dave Lancaster’s able seaman’s uniform, a child’s bonnet and gloves, an album of photos of Shermanbury Rectory 1913, four silver football medals awarded to Nelson Thorns in the 1920s, a photo of Manning Farm Small Dole, a printing block of a Henfield view and stained glass windows probably related to William Glasby, Henfield Coronation Dance programme, various medals and badges etc from the Lucy Bishop collection, British Legion Remembrance Day services at Twineham and Henfield, photos a book and newspaper cuttings relating to the wartime service of Joan Savage from Henfield.

Alan Barwick

Curator