**CURATOR’S REPORT FEBRUARY 2023**

Visitor numbers in 2023 were 1501; about 200 up from the previous year, but still well below the numbers we were getting a few years ago.

Myself, Steve, Robert, and Leo attended the Horsham district museums meeting at Storrington on the 12th January. Various topics were discussed including grants available, museum storage, and emergency salvage training and provision of salvage kits at certain museums.

The museum continues to get enquiries from individuals about their properties, and we have been providing photos and historical details. Red Oaks have asked if we can give them a talk on Henfield including the history of Red Oaks, and we will be collaborating with the fire brigade on an event in a few month’s time.

Since the last meeting, during December and January, there was a colourful temporary display of salt and pepper pots, and since early February a display of WW2 items, “West Sussex on the Front Line,” from a private collection.

Items to be considered for accessioning are: A framed water colour print of the Pinchnose Green area. The framed oil painting of the South Downs from Henfield which we purchased recently. Wedding dress, frock and bolero from a local family. Framed colour print of architects drawing of Henfield Leisure Centre. Vesta cases and violet nursery book. Book “Beside the Sea & Other Stories” by Pat Jackson from Henfield. Journal of Sussex Gardens Trust including an article on the Violet Nurseries. Book “Best of Both Worlds” an autobiography by Richard Putnam from Henfield. Wood turning objects and sales catalogues by Peter Spear from Henfield. Records of civil defense works at Henfield and research into the Goffe family of Henfield. Newspaper cutting of obituary of Freda Brilliant from Woodmancote.

We were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for the restoration of the Woodmancote Place estate map, but it would be possible to reapply in the next round of grants.

I am hoping to dispose of tools which were at Ray Osgood’s place. That would leave a small number of objects there, including the pram, which Ray is happy to remain there for another year.

Alan Barwick

Curator