

Fakenham Museum of Gas
And
Local History
Museum Directors
Annual Report
The Fakenham Society
2018-19

Preamble

The purpose of this paper to notify the membership of the Fakenham Society of the key activities carried out by the Fakenham Museum of Gas and Local History and by the Museum Trust in securing the future of the Museum.

Museum

2018-19 has proven to be an eventful year, as a result of our last address we were delighted to welcome new volunteers to act as Stewards my thanks to them and the Fakenham Society for their support and Please if you can spend a couple of hours at the museum you would be most welcome.

Museums at Night again proved to be a special event, we were entertained on a chilly night by the Fakenham Euks and we were delighted to have the Mayor; George Acheson give the recital of The Lamplighter.

We also had excellent coverage on TV in particular the Channel 5 programme How the Victorians Built Britain, hosted by Michael Burke and very recently on CBBC All Over The Place, I am sure you will agree a wide spectrum

We hosted a delegation from the Arts Council to discuss our plans, how the updated Accreditation would be implemented, they took with them our vision and strategies which have since been discussed and promoted at seminars up and down the Country.

Visitor numbers continued to hold up but due to continued lack of Stewards we have seen a downturn, however we are looking to strengthen our position with Group Visits, we will report on this next year.

Trust

Another very busy year in reshaping and modernising the Trust Governance to secure the Museums future, has seen constitutional changes that have removed the dependency on Institutions rather than individuals, the withdrawal of Norfolk Historic Building Trust (NHBT). Strengthening to position of the Local History element

Job Description and Person Specs developed to aid employment of a Curator to support the Trust move from Managing Agent to Leaseholder with the support of National Grid Properties (NGP)

Following 4 years of negotiation trials and tribulations we are in a position to undertake the Leasehold on the Gasworks and anticipate signing the lease document prior to Museums at Night.

Museum Closure

You may have seen on Facebook, people working on site or even people wandering aimlessly around town that the museum is closed, this is a planned closure to carry out Phase 1 of a very extensive conservation programme

The work has been focused on ensuring that the buildings and structures are weather proof and structurally sound and of course the rebuilding of the Southern Boundary wall which sustained extensive damage.

Conclusion

We are very close to securing the long-term future of the museum and it must be remembered that this is a museum of National and indeed International importance and as the custodians have a responsibility to ensure its future for generations to come.

It may not look or sound like much work has been done but the museum is in a healthier position than it has been for some time.

Can I leave you with a plea **Please give your support to maintaining the museum by Volunteering, without Volunteers there will not be a museum and Fakenham will be the poorer for that.**

Harry Yates

Trustee Museum Director