

Callington Heritage Centre - Fire Update

Restoration continues

Stage two of the restoration project - cleaning all the smoke damage is now under way. The industrial unit is now well organised, following the loan of all the shelving from Weatherheads to spread all the material out to dry, we then received all the new shelving. This meant that as items are cleaned they can be put on the 'clean' shelves. We have all the new storage boxes, archival plastic bags and tissue, much of it thanks to Kate Johnson from the SE Cornwall Museums Forum. There are three teams of workers who are at the unit on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon cleaning and then listing everything before putting it into new boxes.

I must thank Lucy and Pam for organising the Tuesday and Wednesday groups and Lesley, Anthea and Michael for standing in when necessary. The U3A volunteers have been wonderful and we couldn't manage without them. Ann and Arthur Ede have faithfully attended every week as has Sheila. We still need more volunteers to help with the Wednesday

and Friday sessions.

Inevitably we are coming across items with missing accession numbers some having come off as the items have been cleaned. Most of these items we are able to identify from the records. With more standardised storage facilities one job that will have to be tackled when we get back into the chapel will be completely checking and revising the locations register. However the advantage is that it is giving us the chance to reconsider locations of items and making sure there are more interesting items available to the public on the ground floor.

The latest news following the disastrous fire of 4th March 2007

- « The restoration work and how it is progressing
- « The financial situation
- « New publications
- « Work restoring the chapel
- « The Venning Posters



Unit 20. Everything for cleaning on the left, tables for working on and you can just see the 'clean' red shelving on the right that is gradually being filled. All the new archive quality storage items are up the stairs.

The Financial Situation

The financial position continues to be a worry despite some very generous donations. We have had four figure donations from the Cornwall Heritage Trust and HRH the Duke of Cornwall. Tamar Valley AONB Service gave us £500 and the Callington Lions a little less. We have also had numerous small donations, all of which have been invaluable to us. The main concern is that we still cannot do an accurate cash flow projection due to three unknown costs. Caradon District Council sent us a rates demand of £97 for 25 days in March. I have appealed against this and filled in all the relevant forms and sent documents, but we still have not heard and this can make a difference of £600 or more. We also still have not had an electricity bill which may be high due to two dehumidifiers in use for the first month and one since then. I have now managed to turn this off some

days but have to keep a careful watch on humidity levels. I am naturally hoping that there will be enough funds left for specialist repairs as some of our funders expect this and we do not have the expertise to tackle these jobs.

The other unknown as far as cash flow goes is the period we need to be in the industrial unit. The news from the chapel is not so good as due to delays it looks like we will not be in to at least August and maybe even September. Each month in Unit 20 costs us at least £550 plus electricity and possibly rates.

The insurance has taken a long time despite the assessor inspecting the contents only one week after the event. They have offered us the total amount we were insured for and I have signed forms to accept this and a few days ago the cheque arrived. Needless to say the interest free loan from the Town Council has been a life saver.

One of the two Victorian display chests has already been carefully restored and looks even better than it did before, although with the addition of a couple of charring marks, which have now of course become part of its history.

Left. The chapel china was largely well preserved being packed in boxes in tissue, but one box suffered. I think this was the box that was on the ground floor having recently been taken out of the cabinet, whether the lid was off the box and/or the box was dropped we are not certain, but it is possible that about a dozen pieces have all been broken. These are being left untouched until we have specialist help to restore these.



Grant application success

Before the fire I applied for a BT Community Connections grant which involved a new computer and a years free connection to the internet. Well we got the grant and a brand new computer has arrived at the Town Hall. I did contact BT and say that unfortunately we were not in a position to

connect at this stage and they have kindly sent us a cheque for £180 which is the cost of one years connection.

As soon as I can get quotations for specialist book and china repair I will do another grant application and lets hope we have the same success.

New Publications

Due to all the additional work the disaster has caused the new publications that we had planned have been delayed. However with every penny needed we are making an effort. The Kelly Bray Book just needs about 24 hours of work on it to finish it off and it is hoped this can be this done in the next month. One publication that we have managed to produce is the Callington Burial records 1558-1975, this is a full record of all burials in the parish for that period [although of course there are some gaps in the

earlier registers]. The burials are available on CD and include photographs of each cemetery. The CD is available on the internet www.callington.uk.net/Heritage/Publications and we have already sold several. If you want to save a little money e-mail me directly and I can send the file to you, this saves Paypal costs, packaging and postage costs. My e-mail is lynda@research2004.fslife.co.uk.

Another publication we hope to get out soon is the Baptisms which we expect will prove very popular.

The chapel on the 22nd May. It will be about another two and half weeks until the roof is felted and watertight.

Rising from the Ashes

As you can see from the photograph the roof rafters were lifted on the chapel a week ago. I have been consulting with the project manager on the internal specifications. We will have a new lighting and electrical system with all the lights having UV filters. There will be smoke alarms and an improved burglar alarm system. The

downstairs cupboards will be tidied up and with the electrical box moved out to the porch area we will have slightly more cupboard space. The mezzanine floor will be higher and more fireproof and a new dehumidifier will be installed.



Callington Heritage Centre
c/o The Town Hall
New Road
CALLINGTON
PL17 7NQ

Phone: 01579 384039 Office
Hours or 01579 362139

E-mail:

heritage@callington.uk.net or
lynda@research2004.fslife.co.uk

*Volunteering to help?
Please phone the numbers
above or ring Lucy on
01579 350018.*

Email addresses wanted

I am sure we have more 'Friends' who have e-mails that I have not got. If you know of anyone can you please tell them to e-mail me. Obviously we can save money by e-mailing news to people and you have the advantage that it is more frequent and in colour too!

Circulation List

This e-mail is being circulated to all Committee Members, Volunteers, transcribers, people who have kindly donated to the Appeal, Friends of the Centre and stewards who are on e-mail. If you know of someone who is not on e-mail can you please print off a copy for them.

A Big THANK YOU

To everyone who has helped us so far, whether it is your time, publications, donations or becoming a 'Friend'

www.callington.uk.net/heritage

Venning Posters Saved

The Heritage Centre's unique collection of six hundred posters printed by James Venning in Callington in the period 1890-1930, which provide a snapshot of life in the town are safe!

These were stored in archive polythene bags between acid free boards in a map drawer in the mezzanine level. There was a discussion with the firemen on whether to try to get the entire drawer out or take the cardboard bundles out one at a time. As the wind was getting up and the situation was becoming increasingly dangerous it was decided to put the cardboard bundles in large dustbin bags and bring them out—all this in torrential rain! Once at the Unit they had to be quickly taken out of the damp boards and



allowed to dry. Now Andy is busy cleaning or replacing the archive bags and then they are tied in bundles of ten between new boards.