



27th AGM of Eden Valley Museum Trust

Registered Charity 10655466

It has been a challenging, but ultimately successful year for the Museum. Whilst the stresses and strains of the pandemic are largely past it has bequeathed a series of issues that may take longer to rectify. Financially the concerns and actions outlined in the last Chair's report continue to be in play. The pandemic paradoxically gave a temporary uplift to the EVMT's finances due to the variety of grants that were available, but as noted in the last report this short term buoyancy masked a more serious situation which necessitated substantial and painful changes to staffing for the trust to remain solvent. We have been obliged to continue this rationalisation of our finances with changes to the House Manager's contracted hours and overall Terms and Conditions as well as ever closer scrutiny of ongoing expenditure and overheads. On a positive note though these changes have enabled us to stabilise finances, avoid deficit, ensure the legality and best practice of our House Manager's contract and begin the vital re-building of our strategic reserve. All this has been complex, sensitive and time-consuming and I'm immensely grateful to the work of colleagues on the Executive Committee in supporting these changes.

On more public facing operations the team that emerged after the staff changes of the previous year have done an outstanding job of stepping-up to the challenge with a series of excellent and well received temporary exhibitions and with exciting plans for the coming year, whilst the Object of the Month continues to inform and delight. I will leave the Curatorial Chair to elaborate on these successes in a moment. We have also been fortunate enough to have received significant object loans and donations that have enhanced both the temporary exhibitions and the permanent collection and these generous actions are an indication and affirmation of the museum's standing in the wider community. This has all been complimented by a series of more public events such as the Christmas celebrations, Quiz, Craft Fair, Town Walks and outreach in the surrounding villages and care homes that have broadened public awareness, raised crucial revenue and supported other local community groups. Regular and well attended children's activities have also been a popular feature of school holidays that may hopefully plant the seeds of future young historians!

Likewise we have also been successful in securing significant grants and support from local charities, public bodies and the business community of the Eden Valley. Once again this demonstrates the high regard in which the museum is held. I would therefore like to thank all those organisations who have enabled our important work in the communities of the Eden Valley to continue and flourish.

Lastly I would like to pay tribute and offer sincere thanks to all of you as members, volunteers, stewards, curators, trustees and executive team members for making all this possible. As a volunteer based charity none of this could happen without your support and that of the wider community we exist to serve. Please stay involved and committed, introduce others to our work and if you have an urge to do more then you will find a warm welcome in the team.

Alan Smart
Chair
EVMT