

## Curatorial Report      May 2022 – August 2023

**Curatorial Team:** Cheryl Bell\*, Hilary Brand\*, Peter Brand, Claire Donithorn\*, Polly Duckworth, Jean French\*, Lisa Hunt, Helen Jackman\*, Richard Johnson, Lyn Layland\*, Barbara Mitchell\*, Richard Seymour, Alan Smart\*, Jenny Smith\*, Claire Stockdale\*, Joan Varley  
(\*Current members of Committee)

### Current Exhibitions and Displays

- Entrance Hall – PB built new shelves for the entrance hall for display of leaflets and booklets and incorporating donations box and card reader, with postbox installed there for visitor responses. HB redesigned leaflets on volunteering, membership, research facilities, visitor responses and 'About the Building' booklet.
- Buttery – The Heppington Bell, a new acquisition donated by Elizabeth Fleming, is on display in the fireplace. The Roman Road exhibition has become permanent. The Town Twinning exhibition was on display from April to July and a special twinning event was held in May. This was replaced by a display on local industries, 'Compasses and Cricket Balls', with RJ creating a display on Francis Barker and Sons, and HB moving and renewing the cricket ball making display.
- Shop – HB created a display on Royal Celebrations, using photos and memorabilia from previous Coronation and Jubilee events in the town. This went up in April and will come down at the end of the year.
- Courtyard Bedroom - CS and JV created a new display focused around the acquisition of a letter from Clementine Churchill to the vicar of Crockham Hill regarding support to Russia during WW2.
- High Street Bedroom - JF installed a children's dressing-up area, replacing the floods display with information aimed at younger visitors, and with the relief road model being moved to the landing. New acquisitions, Edenbridge Town and Edenbridge station signs, are now on display.
- Object of the Month – JV picked up this job early in the year and has done a great job. However she now needs to relinquish this and we are discussing how this might continue.

### Future Exhibitions and Displays

- Edenbridge Players have requested a temporary display for their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This will go up in January.
- Local Health Care - an exhibition to coincide with the closing of the Memorial Hospital and the opening of the new Health Centre.
- Timeline – Conflict and Community - in shop later next year?

- Touch Screen Project – Grant money was received for this last year from the National Heritage Fund. The screen has been purchased and work on content has been proceeding, with LH, RS and JV contributing content, HB editing and PB designing and uploading. We plan for it to be operational in the Buttery later in the Autumn.

### **Events and Activities**

- Jubilee event – Afternoon tea, children’s activities, video and display 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June 22
- ‘Christmas Cracker’ - reading and social event, December 22
- Great History Quiz – March 23. This proved a very successful event and a good fundraiser. BM set the questions, HB organized and publicized, CS did catering, and AS was questionmaster.
- Craft Fairs in the courtyard and Rickards Hall organised by MF in August 22 and June 23, Both had music, refreshments and a variety of craft stalls, with an estimated 150 people attending each. £400 was raised at the 2022 event and £630 in 2023.
- Children’s activities –JF has organized regular children’s activity events during school holidays: August & October 22 and April, May & August 23 with assistance from R & J Johnson and Polly Duckworth. There have also been children’s activities at the Jubilee event, Christmas Extravaganza and Craft Fairs in Aug 22 & June 23.
- Town trails – Two trails happened in 22 and three in 23
- Outreach activities – We did two visits to Roman Court sheltered housing and one to Edenbridge Manor care home. We had stalls at Cowden and Four Elms village fetes. HB spoke at the CAMEO group at the Eden Centre in February and WI in September. JF also gave a talk and demonstration at Roman court earlier this year and other outreach activities are planned for later this year.

### **Future Events**

We plan to continue special activities for the Christmas Extravaganza in November, and another Christmas reading event in December, plus Quiz, Craft Fair, Town Trails and Children’s Activities next year too.

### **Behind the scenes**

- Conservation and Cataloguing - JS has now taken over the lead on this though HJ remains in an advisory role. We are enormously indebted to HJ for the immense amount of work she has done on this over the last few years. PB continues the regular inputting of data and digitizing of photos, and LL and JV have also been inputting research materials. PD has assisted in sorting of loans to be renewed or returned. Stuart McGregor and Dai Noble have photographed acquisitioned items, with CD organizing.

- Clearing out – JF and HB had a major sort out of unneeded materials and display items in January of this year, with RJ and PB providing muscle power.

### **Local History Enquiry Service**

LL dealt with 31 enquiries between May 22 and August 23. A total income of £178 was received for this in new memberships and donations.

Hilary Brand, September 2023