

## Curatorial Report: April 2023-2024

**Curatorial Team:** Hilary Brand (Chair), Claire Donithorn, Jean French, Lyn Layland, Barbara Mitchell, Clare and Richard Seymour, Alan Smart OBE, Jenny Smith, with assistance from Peter Brand, Polly Duckworth, Helen Jackman, Richard Johnson, Joan Varley.

Claire Donithorn has stepped down from the team but is happy to be available for consultations. Sadly, Peter Brand passed away on Easter Monday, he will be missed by all in the museum.

### Current Exhibitions and displays

- **Buttery:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Edenbridge Players followed the Francis Barker company exhibition, manufacturer of scientific instruments.
- **Touch screen project:** with help of a grant from National Heritage (MAM), facilitated by Alan Smith, a new touch screen is currently set up in the Buttery. Thanks go to Peter Brand for bringing it to life.
- **Shop area:** The cricket ball exhibition has been refreshed and reinstated in the corner of the shop. Clare Seymour has taken responsibility for the shop and is aiming to stock it with items that relate to the Eden Valley. Everyone has commented on the improved look of the shop! A cushion has been added to the inglenook fireplace for children (or adults) to sit on!
- **Courtyard Bedroom:** Display relating to Healthcare Provision in Edenbridge with exhibits from the League of Friends of Edenbridge Hospital and surgical instruments.
- **High Street Bedroom:** Children's dressing-up area has been very successful. A nurse's cape and tunic have been added to the rail of clothes.
- **Object of Interest:** Tylour Coat of Arms is on display in the Buttery, kindly donated by Lennox Cato DL and cost of framing funded by Anna Macmillan.

### Future exhibitions

- **Buttery:** The John Surtees trophy has been returned to Mrs. Surtees providing an opportunity to refresh the corner display.
- **Upstairs Gallery:** The Tannery display and hop picking display need refreshing. We are hoping to enlist the help of Andrew Robinson who put together the backing for the Players display. Jean has also been liaising with the Garden Classroom charity based in London with a view to collaborating with them in the future.
- **Hospitals and Health:** The main exhibition will remain until the end of the year.
- **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-day landings:** A small exhibition is planned to mark this occasion in the Buttery.

### Events

- **Outreach visits and talks:** Hilary gave a talk to Edenara on the 8<sup>th</sup> March; Jean visited Edenbridge Guides on 11<sup>th</sup> October with an activity and on 24<sup>th</sup> April did a talk and handling session in the Well Being Centre at the new health centre.
- **Children's activity sessions** were held in the museum during August, Autumn half term and the Easter holidays.

- **Edenbridge Primary School visit:** 9<sup>th</sup> January - just before the woodworm treatment we welcomed 60 children and their teachers as part of their Time-Traveler topic for that half term - £100 raised for the museum.
- **Christmas:** Children's drop-in activity on 25<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Extravaganza was well attended.
- **Great History Quiz:** fundraiser in April held at WI hall made £586 profit.
- **Edenbridge Beavers:** A visit to the museum on 20th May - £30 raised for the museum.
- **Future events:** We will continue to have a stall at as many local fetes as possible subject to the availability of volunteers. We have been invited to the Clubs and Societies Fair at the WI Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June where we will showcase the museum. Another outreach activity will take place at the Health Centre in June. There is also a talk in February for the Evening WI.
- **Research:** Lyn continues to respond to research requests.

### **New Acquisitions**

- **Coat of Arms of Taylour family:** painting related to Taylour House in Edenbridge, donated by Lennox Cato DL is on display in the Buttery.
- **Crested China Items:** A collection of 50 items of Edenbridge crested china, which is annotated in a folder, has been offered to the museum. It was thought worth arranging a temporary display to gauge visitors' reaction, perhaps in the entrance glass display case.

### **General maintenance**

- **Major clear-out:** During the January and February close-down 22 years of accumulated items and no longer needed (not actual artefacts) were cleared out.
- **Cataloguing:** of photos, artefacts and documents has steadily continued.