

Autumn is often a reflective period, just before we celebrate Christmas and make our New Year's resolutions. Mine seem to get recycled every year. Looking back at the Museum year, we are grateful for the number of visitors and special interest groups that have enjoyed (and told us so) Clare Maryan Green's wonderful look at her farming year through her stained glass, wool craft and paintings in the Museum Solar. Thank you Clare.

The displays and information elsewhere in the Museum and the building itself have also drawn praise, appreciation and sometimes generous donations. We are fortunate to be able to display the collection in such a historical setting.

This year the Museum garden has blossomed under the care of Eileen Ireland, Jeff Cox, Rosalinde Haw and Ros Lawton. A huge thank you to them all.

In October the Museum Players delighted us with two evening performances of Vivian Perkins's recollections of *When I Was A Boy*, written and directed by Chris de Vere Hunt. Both performances were sold out and it was a wonderful evening and a look back at Porlock between the world wars. Our thanks to Chris, the Players and to all those who work behind the scenes to make these evenings enjoyable.

On November 1st the Museum sponsored a talk in the Village Hall by Jeff Cox on the men and women of Porlock Vale who served in WWI. Jeff was aided by Christine and Nigel Greenwood, Justin Blundell (in authentic WWI uniform) and Stephanie Blake who played *The Last Post* so beautifully in a poignant flute solo to end the talk. The personal letters and recollections were especially insightful and it was a memorable evening and a fitting tribute to all who served.

As usual winter seems a deceptively quiet time at the museum, but it is when we plan and work towards the next exhibition and the year ahead. There will be more about our plans in the Spring Newsletter.

The Museum will be open for Porlock's Late Night Shopping. Saturday, December 15th from 6 to 9 pm. There will be mulled cider, Christmas cake and a warm welcome waiting for you. Raffle tickets will be available for the always fabulous Christmas Hamper and Granny Christmas will be upstairs and she will be very happy to pass on requests to the man himself.

On Saturday, January 5th at 6pm the village Wassailing will begin at the Museum and the Mummer's Play will take place at 6:30. It is always a good evening.

In February the senior Jeff Cox will continue his tales of Culbone and the influence it has been on his and on the lives of so many others.

The winners in the Children's Colouring Competition were Mia Keal of Porlock and Amelia Parsons of Lancashire. Their task was to colour a drawing of an owl or a lamb, based on Clare's stained glass. All entries were of a very high standard and the winning entries can be viewed on the museum website.

It is the time of year when we thank all those non committee members who help us in so many varied ways. They are true friends of the Museum and we are very grateful to them. Penny Kelham continues to manage our splendid website, Colin and Ann Strange, Steve Rawle, John Hammond, Gaynor Ellicott and Barry Hitchcox are always ready to help and it is hugely appreciated. Vi Martin manages the steward's rota and we are grateful to her and to all our stewards. We also thank the community for their support, donations and encouragement.

We are also grateful to Roger and Chris who, through the Newsletter, provide us all with an opportunity to share our news and read about other village organizations and happenings.

I will, as always, hope to see you at the Museum. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lita Strampp, Curator