

## Newsletter Summer 2019

It was a beautiful evening for the opening of the Summer Exhibition. At the Centre of Things tells the story of the Cape House, the Cape family, and the amazing number of trades that flourished there over the years. We were very pleased to have Rosemary Cape with us and she cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition.

In addition to the research and images of the Cape House over the years, the history of the Post Office and some of its incredible dramas through the years are recounted. There is also the story of the village bakers and tools of many trades are on display.

A splendid 19th C. Leech Jar is on show with the early chemist's equipment and cures. John Russell recently amused the visiting Minehead U3A History Group with tales of early medicines and when bloodletting and laxatives were reckoned to cure almost everything! There is also an early machine that administered electric shocks that were also said to cure 'all known afflictions'. Still in working order! We haven't tried it.

Downstairs we are remembering, in its 150th year, the publication of Blackmore's dramatic tale of Lorna Doone. The costume Carol Westcott wore for the 100th anniversary is on display and Mary Kidd has put together a wonderful scrapbook of all the village and Exmoor events at the time. The photographs show a lovely Carol as Lorna and Gordon Kidd as a handsome and dashing John Ridd. You might well find images of your younger selves in the album. Well worth a visit.

The museum gardeners have reinstated many of the herbs in the front garden that had become overshadowed by more vigorous plants. We are very grateful to the Monday morning team of Eileen Ireland, Rosalinde Haw and Jeff Cox (the original) who work throughout the year to keep the garden in order.

We are looking forward to a group of American visitors and are always happy to welcome visiting groups and tours throughout the season.

Dates for your diary are: Our Annual Coffee Morning. At the museum, Saturday May 25th from 10 to 12.

A Barn Dance at the Village Hall, Friday July 12th at 7:30pm. The caller will be Ros Lawton. Admission £5, includes light refreshments and the bar will be open at 7. Tickets are available at Spar and the Museum.

On Thursday, August 8th at 2:30 pm, in the Museum Solar, Rosemary Gray will be speaking about her and Tim Gray's research into the history of the Cape House. Admission £2, includes tea and biscuits.

As the museum receives no funding and charges no admission fee, we are reliant upon donations and fund raising to meet our expenses. I hope you will be able to support our events throughout the year, as they are what enable us to remain open and to continue to safeguard local treasures and history for future generations.

Just a reminder that we are not the only museum in our area, The Boat Shed at Porlock Weir and the Allerford Museum are also open for the season and well worth visiting.

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you at the museum.

Lita Strampp, Curator