

Porlock Vale Newsletter – Spring 2018

The winter cobwebs and remaining elusive pine needles are being swept away at the Museum. It was an especially busy and happy holiday period with the museum packed with friends and well wishers on Late Night Shopping and again, on 12th Night, for a splendid wassailing evening that included two rousing performances by Chris de Vere Hunt's Mummers. Huge thanks to all who took part, upstairs and down, to make both events so memorable. The kind donations of cakes and cider were especially appreciated.

As the days lengthen and we prepare for the season ahead, Christmas suddenly seems a very long time ago. All those boring old people who, when we were young and time seemed endless, told us that time speeds up as we get older were right!

Jeff Cox will be recalling his Culbone memories and the enduring legacy of the years he and Jean spent there in the Museum Solar on Thursday March 15th at 2:30 pm. These are informal afternoons with tea and biscuits and a chance to share your own memories. There is no admission charge, but donations to the museum are welcome.

We are all very excited about Clare Maryann Green's summer exhibition. It will be wonderful to have the Solar filled with light and the vibrant colours of Clare's stained glass and paintings. Her love of and continuing involvement in Exmoor's farming year and with its people are reflected in her work. It is right that we celebrate our local gifted artists and Clare's talents are widely recognized.

The museum committee welcomes two new members Gail Crane and Jeff Cox. With two Jeff Coxes in the village it can get confusing, our new member has long time family connections to Porlock and local journalism. He is currently researching every village man and woman who served in WWI. Both Jeff and Gail bring needed technical and research skills and enthusiasm to the committee and we thank them for agreeing to serve.

Behind the scenes, I continue to organize and curate, Mij Kay is stitching new costumes for our child mannequins, Rosalinde Haw balances the books, Team Clare is preparing the Solar for the summer exhibition, Fiona Plumstead is checking supplies and keeping us in order. The museum gardeners are stirring, Vi Martin is organizing our stewards and we are preparing for an American tour group's morning at the museum in early May. After which, Alistair Campbell will lead them on a village walk. The museum year begins.

We are grateful to the Carnival Committee for a donation of £100 and to the Porlock Horse Show for their donation of £100 towards a new mannequin and the display that, in 2019, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Lorna Doone. Mary Kidd is compiling a scrap book of previous anniversaries and we would like to hear from anyone who has interesting photos, recollections and items from those events.

The museum will open briefly for Easter Week and for the season on May 1st.

I will see you at the Museum.

Lita Strampp, Curator