

Newsletter Spring 2019

While preparations for the season ahead are in progress, I will briefly look back and thank all those who made our Late Night Shopping Opening and the wassailing evening such happy events. There is now no reason at all for the museum apple trees to not produce a bumper crop. Well done Mummers and everyone who took part.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Blackmore's Lorna Doone, you will find Lorna herself standing in the Great Hall and we will be looking back, through memories, scrap books and images, at the village's 100th anniversary celebrations. It remains a novel that has continually captured and captivated the reader's imagination. That its setting is Exmoor and the lovely Oare Valley, has always intrigued those of us who live here.

Jeff Cox has completed his record of those in Porlock Vale who served in WWI and we are grateful to Jeff and to all those who contributed and shared their family stories. The volumes will be available in the Great Hall for all who are interested. Jeff was assisted in the preparation and presentation of the books by Penny Kelham and Gail Crane.

Our summer exhibition, in the Solar, will centre on Rosemary and Tim Grey's research into the history of the Cape House and the various trades that flourished there over the centuries and those that fanned out, like spokes in a wheel, from it. It was very much a house At the Centre of Things.

The original Jeff Cox will be continuing his tales of Culbone in the Museum Solar at 2:30 pm on Thursday the 28th of February. It is an informal annual event, with tea and cakes. There is no admission charge, but donations to the museum are appreciated.

In May we will, once again, be welcoming a visiting American group for a tour of the museum, as well as a return visit from Minehead U3A Local History Group. We are always pleased to welcome local and touring groups to the museum. While we are a local history museum, our stories of village life and displays of everyday day items strike a common cord with visitors from around the world. There is more that unites us than divides us.

If you are interested in becoming a museum steward, please contact Vi Martin on 01643-863 238. It entails welcoming visitors for 1 and 3/4 hours a week or fortnightly and is hugely appreciated as it enables us to keep the museum doors open.

I will hope to see you at the museum.

Lita Strampp, Curator