



WaterWords

Waterworks Museum News - Autumn 2021

Welcome return of visitors to the Waterworks Museum



A young visitor enjoying our WW2 theme day in August



New elevated walkway and entrance to the Southall Gallery

In the last edition of WaterWords we explained how securing a Heritage Emergency Fund grant was enabling the Directors to make changes to make the Waterworks Museum safe for visitors to return and at the same improve the visitor experience. These changes were sufficiently complete to allow the Museum to re-open to visitors in July 2021.



We had no idea how visitors would respond - how quickly they would come back, how they would view the changes we had made or react to the new pattern of less frequent 'Working Days' when visitors can see our engines and pumps in operation. The good news is that visitors have responded brilliantly.

In the first four months since re-opening, close to 2,000 people visited the Waterworks Museum, with average attendance higher than in 2019; and visitor response to changes in the visitor centre and the new elevated walkway have been very positive.

This suggests that our trial of a new pattern of opening - with Working-Days just once a month, but with extra working days during the school holidays (Steam-Up Tuesdays), has proved popular with visitors, although it is still too early to draw any firm conclusions. This trial will continue in 2022.

Visitor attractions on Working Days have included a demonstration of country crafts by Herefordshire's The Cart Shed, a WW2 day with a display of vehicles and the launch of a codebreaking activity for children, and a performance of magic and conjuring by family entertainer, Greg Chapman, with live music provided by PLUG (the Pearl Lake Ukulele Group).

There will be new attractions for visitors in 2022, as well as the return of some long term favourites, details of which will be announced on our website in due course. The Directors are also open to new ideas for events that we might host at the Museum - so please let us know if you have any thoughts

Directors have also been trialling new uses for the Museum's visitor centre, the refurbishment of which should be complete in the next six months (as phase 3 of the visitor centre project). Events already successfully hosted have included a Saturday evening family entertainment show by Greg Chapman and a regional tourism event hosted by Eat Sleep Live Herefordshire. It is hoped that these types of events will become a regular feature in the Museum's programme, and a new source of income to improve our financial position as we build our strategic plan for the next five years.

Museum News

Historic water supply in Presteigne

Firefighting and other stories told at the Waterworks Museum



Early in 2021, Directors were pleased to take possession of these wooden fragments saved from the bottom of the well of a medieval building in Presteigne

The ancient timbers shown above are currently on display on a shelf in Bay-6 of the Museum whilst they slowly dry out.

This donation resulted in the Chairman visiting the ancient town of Presteigne just over the Welsh border to understand the arrangements for historic water supply to that town. This has in turn led to Presteigne & Norton Town Council wonderfully donating a copy of the information boards on water supply on display at The Warren in Presteigne, which can be seen at the Waterworks Museum from Easter 2022.



A reliable supply of water available at good pressure was one of the key public safety benefits that came with the introduction of a piped water supply in the 1850's. For this reason we have just launched a new trail to tour the Waterworks Museum focused on the theme of firefighting. Other new trials will be introduced during 2022.

Hydrant No.	Street	Hydrant No.	Street	Hydrant No.	Street
1	Abbey Terrace	20	Alford Street	39	Barnes Lane
2	Alexander Avenue	21	Alford Street	40	Barnes Lane
3	All Saints Street	22	Alford Street	41	Barnes Lane
4	Anderton Close	23	Alford Street	42	Barnes Lane
5	Arson Avenue	24	Alford Street	43	Barnes Lane
6	Asky Street	25	Alford Street	44	Barnes Lane
7	Asky Street	26	Alford Street	45	Barnes Lane
8	Ashstone Hill	27	Alford Street	46	Barnes Lane
9	Ashstone Hill	28	Alford Street	47	Barnes Lane
10	Ashton Road	29	Alford Street	48	Barnes Lane
11	Ashton Road	30	Alford Street	49	Barnes Lane
12	Ashton Road	31	Alford Street	50	Barnes Lane
13	Ashton Road	32	Alford Street	51	Barnes Lane
14	Ashton Road	33	Alford Street	52	Barnes Lane
15	Ashton Road	34	Alford Street	53	Barnes Lane
16	Ashton Road	35	Alford Street	54	Barnes Lane
17	Ashton Road	36	Alford Street	55	Barnes Lane
18	Ashton Road	37	Alford Street	56	Barnes Lane
19	Ashton Road	38	Alford Street	57	Barnes Lane
20	Ashton Road	39	Alford Street	58	Barnes Lane
21	Ashton Road	40	Alford Street	59	Barnes Lane
22	Ashton Road	41	Alford Street	60	Barnes Lane
23	Ashton Road	42	Alford Street	61	Barnes Lane
24	Ashton Road	43	Alford Street	62	Barnes Lane
25	Ashton Road	44	Alford Street	63	Barnes Lane
26	Ashton Road	45	Alford Street	64	Barnes Lane
27	Ashton Road	46	Alford Street	65	Barnes Lane
28	Ashton Road	47	Alford Street	66	Barnes Lane
29	Ashton Road	48	Alford Street	67	Barnes Lane
30	Ashton Road	49	Alford Street	68	Barnes Lane
31	Ashton Road	50	Alford Street	69	Barnes Lane
32	Ashton Road	51	Alford Street	70	Barnes Lane
33	Ashton Road	52	Alford Street	71	Barnes Lane
34	Ashton Road	53	Alford Street	72	Barnes Lane
35	Ashton Road	54	Alford Street	73	Barnes Lane
36	Ashton Road	55	Alford Street	74	Barnes Lane
37	Ashton Road	56	Alford Street	75	Barnes Lane
38	Ashton Road	57	Alford Street	76	Barnes Lane
39	Ashton Road	58	Alford Street	77	Barnes Lane
40	Ashton Road	59	Alford Street	78	Barnes Lane
41	Ashton Road	60	Alford Street	79	Barnes Lane
42	Ashton Road	61	Alford Street	80	Barnes Lane
43	Ashton Road	62	Alford Street	81	Barnes Lane
44	Ashton Road	63	Alford Street	82	Barnes Lane
45	Ashton Road	64	Alford Street	83	Barnes Lane
46	Ashton Road	65	Alford Street	84	Barnes Lane
47	Ashton Road	66	Alford Street	85	Barnes Lane
48	Ashton Road	67	Alford Street	86	Barnes Lane
49	Ashton Road	68	Alford Street	87	Barnes Lane
50	Ashton Road	69	Alford Street	88	Barnes Lane
51	Ashton Road	70	Alford Street	89	Barnes Lane
52	Ashton Road	71	Alford Street	90	Barnes Lane
53	Ashton Road	72	Alford Street	91	Barnes Lane
54	Ashton Road	73	Alford Street	92	Barnes Lane
55	Ashton Road	74	Alford Street	93	Barnes Lane
56	Ashton Road	75	Alford Street	94	Barnes Lane
57	Ashton Road	76	Alford Street	95	Barnes Lane
58	Ashton Road	77	Alford Street	96	Barnes Lane
59	Ashton Road	78	Alford Street	97	Barnes Lane
60	Ashton Road	79	Alford Street	98	Barnes Lane
61	Ashton Road	80	Alford Street	99	Barnes Lane
62	Ashton Road	81	Alford Street	100	Barnes Lane

Above is the only known copy of a 1939 poster which was recently restored by staff at Hereford's Archive & Records Centre and which is now in the Museum's Archive. It lists the location of all the fire hydrants in the streets of Hereford at the start of WW2.

Steam Road Roller 'Emma'

Details have yet to be finalised but our Volunteers have been pleased to learn that discussions with Herefordshire Council about the future of road roller Emma are looking promising. Emma arrived at the Waterworks Museum as a temporary home in September 2018 and soon became popular with visitors and volunteers alike. Our plan is to create a long term station for Emma in the Museum grounds ensuring public enjoyment of her for the foreseeable future.



In this photo we see Emma awaiting the installation of new boiler tubes and for her freshly repainted rollers to be reconnected.

Museum Events

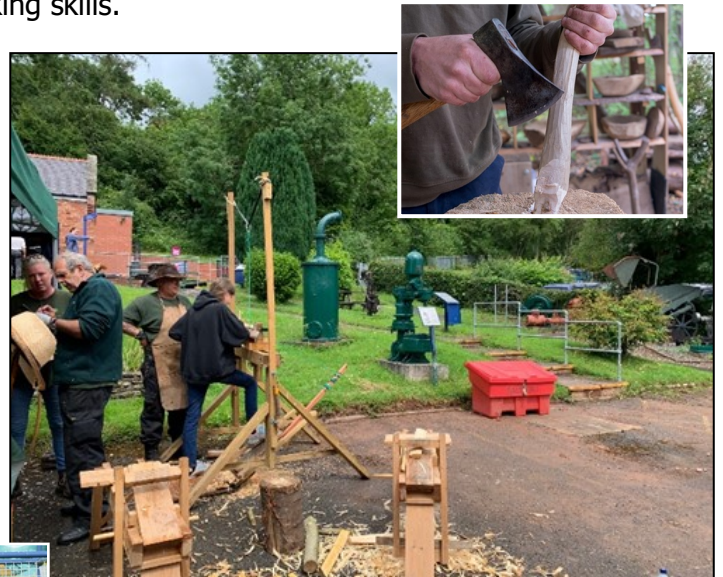
As mentioned on page one, the Museum held a number of successful events this year, thanks to the hard work of volunteers. You can read about a few of them here.

The annual Steampunk Weekend went 'virtual' for the second time in April 2021 with Greg Chapman recording three shows which were streamed over the weekend of 24/24th April.

Greg was finally able to come to the Museum in August to run an evening family magic and entertainment show. He also performed in the visitor centre the following day, with both events supported by the fabulous Pearl Lake Ukulele Group.



Our first Working Day in July was billed as a Craft Day, with Herefordshire's The Cart Shed demonstrating various wood-working skills.



We were fortunate to have two student blacksmithing volunteers who displayed their skills on a recent open day.

Regular volunteer and 2nd year student Stan, was supported by 3rd year student, Clark and volunteer Harry who provided the energy to power the furnace. We are grateful to them all for their support.

Stan, mostly seen working in our Steam Bay, was recently appointed as the Museum's Youth Trustee.



Eat Sleep Live – a leading tourism organisation promoting Herefordshire - held their annual tourism forum at the Museum in October. Over fifty delegates attended the event which highlighted many of Herefordshire's Hidden Gems. Delegates enjoyed delicious nibbles from Pot & Page in Ledbury, a gift of coffee from Black Mountain Roast, and a voucher to visit the Museum.



Focus On WW1 and WW2 Artefacts

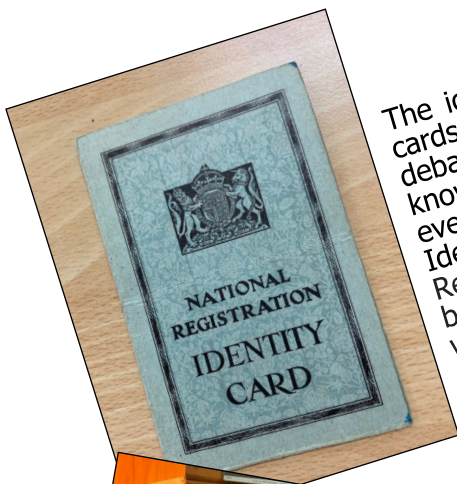
Did you know that the Museum holds over 150 artefacts from both World Wars? Listed below are just a few of them. If you would like to know more about the archive please contact Fred Snelgrove, our archivist on collections@waterworksmuseum.org.uk. More information will be made available on these and other WW2 exhibits on the Museum website in the first quarter of 2022.

In December 2020 a deposit came to the Museum from Brian Butcher, via volunteer Clive Lafford, of various pieces of German Incendiary bombs and other fragments of shrapnel from bombs and shells. These were mostly from the Second World War, but one piece was from a World War One German shell. Attached to this was a very battered label which read as follows:



A piece of German Shell which exploded & killed Ten men on board HMS "Tiger" during the "Dogger Bank" action on Sunday Jan 24th 1915

HMS Tiger was a battlecruiser of the Royal Navy and participated in the Battle of Jutland in 1916, where she was only lightly damaged despite suffering many hits by German shells. Apart from providing distant cover during the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight in 1917, she spent the rest of the war on uneventful patrols in the North Sea.



The idea of national identity cards in the UK has been debated recently but did you know that during WW2 everyone had to have an Identity Card? This National Registration Identity Card belonged to Nancy Miller who was a School Teacher.



A pair of working Field Telephones marked 'Set F, MKII TMC'.



A British WW2 'Mickey Mouse' gas mask. It did not resemble the cartoon character but was made in red and blue, like the American version. It was given to Children aged 18 months to 4 years to allay their fears of wearing a respirator.



A British WW2 soldier's leather Poncho/ground sheet dated 1941. Marked 'Horbury 1941', with a broad arrow and 'R14 WRD'.

Engineering and Site Activities



Restoration of the Dipping Pond

Regular visitors to the Museum will be familiar with the unassuming little pond in the rear car park. Whilst this pond may appear to be fairly insignificant it does in fact provide a haven for a number of insects and invertebrates such as water boatmen, pond skaters and newts.

After severe flooding in October 2019 and February 2020 the pond became suffocated with debris that had been carried by the flood water of the River Wye into the grounds of the Museum. This affected the appearance of the pond and threatened the survival of the plants that are so important in maintaining a healthy environment for the wildlife that inhabit the pond and its surrounding area.

It was not until May 2021 that restoration work could commence. Whilst it was necessary to add new oxygenating plants, to ensure the continued good health of the pond, volunteers were able to save and re-use some of the existing plants. A new pebble beach was also added to provide a more secure surface for pond dipping and provide a staging point for invertebrates to exit and enter the pond.

Thanks to the huge efforts of occasional volunteer, Emma Tassell, supported by Carole Hammond and Lynette Walker (volunteers), the pond is now ready for the return of the children who enjoy learning about this small, but important eco-system - both during formal school lessons and in the informal pond-dipping sessions held at the Museum.

Building the Sissons Engine Shed

It was decided in 2019 that the Sissons Steam Engine display was to be behind the Museum next to the Easton and Anderson turbine exhibit and near to a steam supply.

The shed had to be bespoke built as the speed governor of the engine set was substantially higher than normal shed height. Long-standing Museum volunteer, Paul Allen, was lucky enough to be offered a substantial amount of timber that was about to be burnt. Therefore, together with volunteer engineers Graham Prosser and Adrian Eyre, they began to design and build a suitable shed, the bare bones of which can be seen in the photograph below.

To give the shed an old-style engineering look the frame was clad in galvanised corrugated sheeting with an electrical-powered roller shutter door. The electrical controls and additional lighting were installed by volunteer engineer, Pieter Hollenburg.

The Sissons Engine Shed project was slowed in 2020 due to the Covid lockdown, but since then the team has worked hard to complete the display shed, enabling work to commence to instal the engines and for the process of commissioning to commence in due course.



Volunteering News



New volunteers, pictured with Operations Director, Neil Atkins (2nd from right).

From the left are: Sue Hickling, Mike Bond, John Kennedy, Carole Hammond, Stan Lawler, Rosemary Wooderson, Diane Cammidge, Neil Atkins and Eddie Coventry.

Missing from this picture are new volunteers: Adam Bond, Barbara and Richard Glasspoole, Robin Griffiths, Penny Morgan, David Redmayne, Geoff Rogers, Clark Strang, Ethan Sweet, Karl Szuster, Emma Tassel, Sarah Thorpe and Jane Webb.

Hello and Goodbye

A number of our long-standing volunteers decided during the Covid-19 lockdown that the time was right to step back from volunteering at the Museum. This included Derek Duffett, Joan Hughes, Alan Hartland, Brian & Marion Pearson, Peter & Hilary Williams and Brian & Joyce Davies.

We would like to acknowledge the huge contribution made by all of the above who have played a vital role in the Museum's success for many years. We will have an opportunity to thank them at the Museum's winter social event on 14 March 2022.

This will also be our opportunity to welcome our new volunteers who are supporting us in the visitor centre, with IT and networking, research or who have joined our engineering team.

Richard Curtis, Museum Chairman said "Replacing the experience of the volunteers who stepped back at the end of the Covid-19 lockdown was never going to be easy; but we've been very fortunate as the Volunteers who have joined us in 2021 have fitted into the team seamlessly."

We still have vacancies, especially for volunteer engineers and visitor stewards. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know. For more information contact us on:

volunteering@waterworksmuseum.org.uk

or - visit the volunteering section on our website

waterworksmuseum.org.uk/support/volunteering



Seen here are retired volunteers Marion Pearson, Hilary Williams and Joan Hughes who worked in the café and on the reception counter for many years. The inclusion of a cake in the photograph is very apt, because nothing motivates a volunteer more than a cup of tea and slice of cake!

Joan also served for 20 years as the Museum's Administrator.

Other news

Pete Heaton remains an active volunteer but has stepped down as our Chief Engineer after over 20 years service. We now have two Joint Chief Engineers, one of which is Mike Glover. The second role is currently vacant.

Neil Atkins has been appointed as Operations Director with responsibility for the Visitor Centre and visitor experience.

Sad farewells

It is sad to report that in the past two years three friends of the Museum and long term volunteers have passed away: Peter Allen (November 2019), Keith Jones (January 2021) and Michael Lewis (November 2021). Each of them had been very active as volunteers for many years and are remembered at the Waterworks Museum with great affection.

Chairman's Perspective



There have been events in the Museum's past which have changed its direction and the impact of the Covid pandemic is another of these occasions. I say this because the changes we made during the period of Covid-19 closure (see front page story) have significantly improved the visitor experience but also provided

new opportunity to put the Waterworks Museum on a more secure financial footing.

Since reopening we have been trialling the use of our visitor centre for external use, something we aim to do much more of once our new meeting and conference facility has been completed.

The main use of my column in this edition is to say THANK YOU to so many people whose continued support enables Directors and Trustees to look forward to the future with great confidence.

Every Tuesday during the past three months we have had between 22 and 30 volunteers on site who work to restore and maintain the engines and pumps and provide our visitors with the best possible experience. This includes the new volunteers named on page 6, three of whom enquired about volunteering with us after first experiencing the Waterworks Museum as a visitor earlier this summer.

I am also very grateful for the support of the Museum's Trustees, especially three new members (Richard Glasspoole, Ana Vaughan and Stan Lawler) who kindly agreed to join the Council of Management in 2021.

A huge thank you goes to John Townsend (Member and first Curator of the Waterworks Museum), Andrew Hall of the Stirling Engine Society and to Catherine Hutchings and John Warren from Crofton Beam Engines for their support as speakers in our Zoom Talks for Museum Members. If you missed any of these events recordings they are still available to view on the Museum's YouTube channel.

Finally, thank you to the 2,000 visitors who have already come back to see us in 2021 and to the exhibitors and entertainers who have helped visitors enjoy their visits in this most extraordinary of years.

Richard Curtis, Chairman

WINTER SOCIAL EVENT

Covid-19 meant that our traditional winter social evening could not be held in 2020 or 2021 but, all things being equal, we plan to hold an event in 2022.

HOLD THE DATE: Monday 14 March 2022 (7pm)

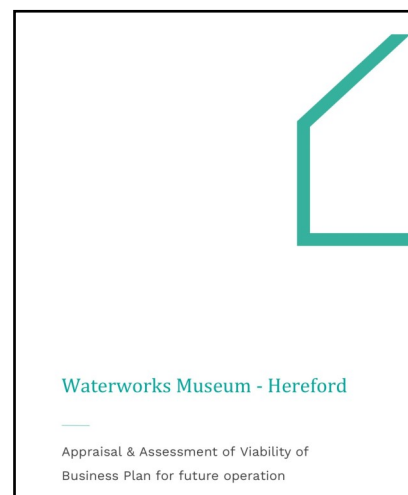
Forward Plan (2022-2026)

As an Accredited Museum it is important that the Waterworks Museum has a plan that sets its strategic ambition more than one year ahead at a time. We have traditionally used a five-year planning cycle, which is now due for an update.

Trustees intend that the next Forward Plan should have two main themes:

- To improve our financial stability as an independent museum, which is now all the more important as our response to Covid-19 has severely depleted our reserves; and
- To reinterpret the collection in our care for today's audience. Every item (big and small) has a broader story to tell - where it came from and how it was used and the difference it made. We have started this exercise by making more information available on our website during Covid lockdown, but a team of volunteers has now been put in place to look at this more holistically.

We were very fortunate to receive a sum of money as part of a Covid recovery grant to engage independent external help to review Directors' plans for developing the Museum over the next five years. This looked at our financial plan, our operating model and ideas for developing a retail strategy (a shop at the Museum and online). The review also, very importantly, endorsed Director's proposals for reconfiguring the Visitor Centre which, as well as making our building more Covid-secure, has provided, when it is completed, a larger and more flexible space available for external hire.



The detail of these plans will take a while to fully develop, but Trustees will be asked to adopt a Forward Plan next Spring which sets the direction of travel and priorities for the next five years. Before this, there will also be opportunity for Museum Volunteers and Members to have their say on the proposed way forward.

Key Events and Information

2022 Events

As we are still in recovery mode after being closed for 15 months due to Covid-19 we are not yet in a position to publish a full calendar of events for 2022. However, subject to any change in Covid-19 guidance, we plan to continue the pattern of opening adopted since re-opening, with details published on our website and on social media as soon as we can.

We are, however, planning the return of some annual favourites - our annual Gala Day, an event with displays of engines by the Herefordshire & District Preservation Society and our 10th annual Stirling Engine Society rally.

Directors have also announced the return of a Steampunk Experience to Hereford, following two years when our Steampunk event was necessarily held online. The main change for 2022 is that Museum Volunteers will be organising all aspects of the event, which will be held on Saturday, 9 April 2022.

New for 2022 are Working Days in January and February 2022. On these days our steam powered pumps will not be working, as this is the period of winter boiler maintenance and safety tests, which have to be undertaken every year. All other engines and pumps will be working, plus this will be an opportunity for visitors to learn about how the engines and pumps are maintained and for anyone thinking of volunteering with us to have a look 'behind the scenes'.

About the Waterworks Museum

The Waterworks Museum is a registered charity (No. 515866) and an accredited museum. If you would like to know more about the museum and how it is structured, funded and run, please contact us or visit the ABOUT page on our website.

Membership 2022

It's our membership which gives the Museum its solid base in the wider community. For just **£20** public members can support an award-winning industrial heritage museum, which comes with the benefits of:

- Free access to the museum on open days
- A say in the running of the museum at the AGM
- Free attendance at the annual social evening

The annual membership fee for Volunteers is £15. Membership fees for 2022 can be paid online via the Museum's website. Please use the button on the home page to take you to the Membership page and follow instructions. If you need any help with this please leave a message on **01432 342 192** or via treasurer@waterworksmuseum.org.uk and we'll get back to you.

Alternatively, please send a cheque (payable to 'Waterworks Museum-Hereford') to The Treasurer, Waterworks Museum, c/o Mission Hall, Breinton Common, Hereford HR4 7PP.

Individuals who like to support the Museum by making an additional donation may do this via the website or by cheque payment. If applicable, please consider gift-aiding your subscription/donation so that the Museum might receive £1.25 for every £1 paid by you.

Volunteering

If you have an interest in conserving our industrial heritage please consider joining the community of volunteers who run the museum. As we expand, we need new volunteers to help keep the engines running and to give visitors the best possible experience. Skilled or just enthusiastic please contact us about volunteering opportunities (or see our website for details of volunteer vacancies).

Contact us:




Waterworks Museum - Hereford, Broomy Hill, Hereford, HR4 0LJ

Telephone: 01432 342192

Website: www.waterworksmuseum.org.uk

Email: info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk / treasurer@waterworksmuseum.org.uk



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