**Museum Annual Report 2020/21**

This year, during the Covid 19 pandemic, the Museum Committee continued to meet quarterly via Zoom.

The Committee agreed a vision for the Museum and prepared a forward plan including a digitisation/IT plan. The day to day running of the Museum, with all the opening and closing following Government guidelines, continued to be managed by the Curator, Alan Barwick assisted by Assistant Curator, Steve Robotham and a loyal team of volunteers. Stephanie Richards, our Costume Curator, continued to research and share the costume displays on the Museum Facebook page. The Friends of the Museum now consists of 79 members with a core group raising vital funds for the Museum. If you would like to be a Friend (annual membership: Single £10, Family £15, Life £100) or volunteer in any capacity to help the Museum we would be pleased to hear from you via the website [www.henfieldmuseum.org](http://www.henfieldmuseum.org/). Or you can leave a message via the Parish Council office.

The temporary displays in the Museum during the year included:

* St Peter's Church, Henfield, 1250th anniversary
* What We Wore in the War
* The Thames Mudlark (now available on our website)

During the very few months in 2020 that the Museum was able to open its doors, there were 536 visitors.

Included in this, were a school visit of 56 children from St Peter's school. The Museum's roving case featured Henfield and the Age of the Stagecoach display entitled “Flying Machines” which spent the early part of 2020 in the foyer of Henfield Haven.

The Museum has flourished online this year - launching a **new website** ([www.henfieldmuseum.org](http://www.henfieldmuseum.org/)) in August with huge thanks to Rob Gordon who led the effort on content, supported by grateful contributions by others. In fewer than 4 months, there have already been 833 unique visitors and 1,945 page views.

Colourisation/restoration of historic photographs and story-focused writing have proved to be very popular when appearing in BN5 and the Parish Magazine and on the Museum and Henfield Club Facebook pages. Progress continues on the oral history recordings as well as capturing residents' stories of life in Henfield during lockdown 2020. The Museum Facebook page currently has 640 followers and some posts during the year have reached over 10,000 people.

Our 'digital windows' on the museum have given us a much wider audience across the UK and the world.

Material produced and sold this year by the Friends included:

* Henfield at War DVD - produced by Graham duHeaume, narrated by Toby Sharp
* Henfield Commons book - 2nd print run
* Rob Gordon, contributed to the Heritage of Horsham District in 100 objects book (which includes 10 objects associated with Henfield)
* Henfield's 19th Century Egg Basket book by Eddie Colgate.
* The first 'Museum' card of a print of the 'Tipnoak Corner' painting in the Museum – other similar cards are planned for 2021.

Other ongoing initiatives include:

* The new Henfield Heritage trails
* Henfield's Natural History including Arborea and the William Borrer transcription project

Further details of these and a link to purchase items can soon be found on our website [www.henfieldmuseum.org](http://www.henfieldmuseum.org/). Please pay the website a visit to learn about Henfield's rich and varied history. We look forward to when we can welcome you back inside the Museum to see the objects in person.

Ann Donoghue

Committee Chairman

Committee members: Cllrs Ann Donoghue (Chairman), Jane Jones and Chris Simmonds. Curator Alan Barwick, Friends of Henfield Museum Robert Gordon and Leo Jago.