

Wollaston Heritage Society and Wollaston Museum

Reg Charity No. 271530

Autumn 2013 Newsletter

Dear Wollaston Heritage Society Member

I am writing with the latest news on the Museum. As you know, we are now closed for the winter and will be re-opening in April 2014. This seems a long way off but there is plenty to do and the committee spend a lot of time in maintaining the site. For example, a tree has been growing behind the Museum which has caused cracking in the wall: you may have noticed last time you visited. As usual these things are never straightforward: the tree was actually in an empty property and therefore we had to obtain permission, seek quotes and then have the work carried out. This is one instance among many for which we have needed to find extra funding in addition to the normal **annual of running cost of around £3000**. We are very lucky to have been given a grant from the Parish Council and we receive very generous donations from time to time. However, we cannot rely on these sources of income and the committee have reluctantly agreed that we need to increase membership fees next year, to £6 per person which we hope you, the members, will understand and support.

Another way of increasing our income is for tax-paying members to sign up to Gift Aid and we will be circulating a form shortly. Allan Bailey, one of our committee members, has kindly agreed to visit any member to explain the process if necessary, to ask you to sign up if it is relevant, and to help complete the form.

Apart from the financial aspect, which again has to be managed, you will have noticed that we won the Working with Children and Young People Award last year – a plaque and £100 – and we also entered the People's Choice. The Museum collection and site has to be organised and cared for and committee members attend training to learn how to do this properly. Anyone involved in a society or any organisation will know that all this takes time and effort, especially for a small committee like ours.

We have decided on a campaign to increase our membership. We will be sending every household in Wollaston a subscription form and invitation to join the Wollaston Heritage Society, via the March edition of WASNAV. If we can increase our membership, and people volunteer even in a small way to help, this will greatly improve the chances of the Museum site continuing into the future. We really want to give value for money to our members and to organise more talks, visits and events. So, what we need are some enthusiastic people willing to join our depleted committee – so if this is you, please get in touch!

For the future, we have our **Quiz on 30th January**, Peter Woodhams will be giving a talk on **Wollaston Reminiscences at the AGM on 4th April**, and we have the **Open Gardens Day on 13th July** – this year we may have a surprise element! 2014 is the anniversary of the start of WW1 so there will be an event connected with that. We have also agreed to hold a **Wollaston Sale Day in the summer**. We mentioned this some time ago – it is for people to have a stall outside their own houses. We organise programmes and publicity and make a small charge and you will keep any profit from your sales. Simple! Further details will be circulated to you as usual, or will be on our Website or Facebook page.

Please look out for the subscription form in WASNAV and encourage friends and neighbours to join WHS to help keep up this lovely amenity for our village. And if you feel you can help, let us know.

Angela (Secretary)

www.wollastonmuseum.com

www.facebook.com/WollastonMuseum

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