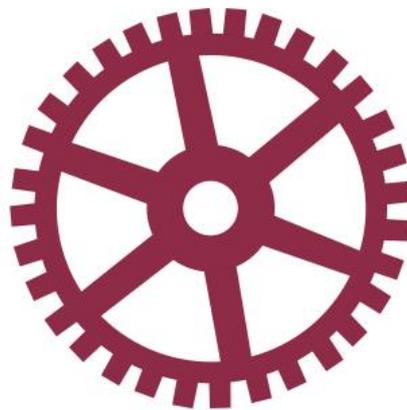


Report to Museum Committee

Quarter One

11th October 2022



Trowbridge
MUSEUM

To inspire people through discovery of Trowbridge's past, present and future.

To explore the heritage, stories and culture of Trowbridge and the surrounding villages, creating meaningful, enjoyable and engaging experiences that are accessible to all.

Engagement figures (April, May, June): Visitors: 3,524, Schools: 250, Other groups: 1011

I. KEY DECISIONS AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

1.1 Accreditation - We received the news in June that we have been re- accredited for another 5 years by the Arts Council. An Accredited Museum operates by gold standards of Museum Practise. Accreditation enables us to apply for grants from heritage funding bodies and to borrow objects from other museums for example. It is also the standard that that we adhere to when making almost every decision, in any department, at the Museum.

1.2 Accessibility - We have purchased illuminating magnifying glasses and wind up torches (as per recommendation in Access Plan).

1.3 Technical problems - We have been hampered this quarter by problems with the IT system (which are council wide). For 5 working days we had no access to the computer system and lost 16 volunteer support hours as they could not access MODES (our collection database).

1.4 Upper Floor conditions - The hot weather this summer has highlighted problems with the environmental conditions on the upper floor. There is no air conditioning up there and temperatures soared to such a degree we had to close that level on a number of days due to concerns about the health of visitors and volunteers. CMAS have raised conservation concerns as well, as high temperature and light levels can cause significant damage to objects (particularly wood and textiles, which make up a high percentage of our collection. we have received a quote for £30,000 as the cost to air condition the floor. We are hopeful that the Friends of Trowbridge Museum may consider some support towards this cause, as well as looking into conservation grants that in which we can emphasize the dangers to what is a unique historic collection.

1.5 Monday Opening - After a conversation with the Head of Resources we are having to re- think our opening hours. Due to the Museum being open 6 days per week and the heavy workload we have across the board in all our departments staff are struggling to find the time to book in holiday or take back their toil. This has led to a build up and HR would ideally like us to begin tackling it. I see no other way to do this than for the Museum to close on a Monday. This would be a temporary measure, until I can put the case for increased staff hours for the new budget year, at which time we would plan to re- open again. At the moment as things stand we cannot do all things; take the time off, cover the Museum and complete our other work.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Museum closes on a Monday until such time as staff levels are sufficient to enable it.

2. FINANCIALS AGENDA ITEM?

2.1 Museum Summary Figures Quarter One

	Actuals	Budget	Variance
Gross Expenditure	£69,259	£67,367	£1,892
Income	£5,703	£10,873	£5,170
Net	£63,556	£56,494	£7,062

2.2 Grants Cultural Summary Figures Quarter One

	Actuals	Budget	Variance
Gross Expenditure	£10,750.00	£10,750	£0
Income	£0	£0	£0
Net	£10,750.00	£10,750.00	£0

Total	£74,306.00	£67,244.00	£7,062
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Quarter 1 has ended adversely by £7,062

Appendix A = Museum Quarter One Actuals.

3. RETAIL AND INCOME GENERATION

3.1 The proposed annual income for the shop is £20,040. The following graph shows the quarterly sales.



For period 1.4.22 – 30.6.22

Sales (inc Vat) £4131.24

Average Transaction Value £7.84

Spend Per Head £1.21

Conversion Rate 15%

Margin 38%

It's been a busy summer and sales are up 5% against the same time period last year.

3.2 Bestsellers - These continue to be the hand knitted mice with 52 sold during this quarter. Demand outstripped supply during the school summer holidays (volunteers were knitting as fast as they could!). Toys, games, greeting cards, craft kits and felt decorations have all sold well this quarter too.

£240 worth of Phyllis Prior's hand beaded jewellery has sold in quarter one.

New refreshed line of confectionery has been introduced for this season featuring new packaging designs.



3.3 Shop promotion - We are continuing to use our Instagram account to generate interest in the shop and our followers are growing at a steady pace.

3.4 Museum Supporter Club - The newsletter content is almost completed, this first edition spans November – February 2023. Online promotion of the club will begin during September and the newsletter will be printed in October, ready for dispatch in November.

3. STAFFING STRUCTURE AND TRAINING

The museum staffing structure is as follows:

Hannah Lyddy - Museum Manager
David Birks - Learning and Outreach Officer
Beatrice Bush - Apprentice Learning and Outreach Officer
Nikki Ritson - Collections and Exhibitions Officer
Andrea Bartlett - Retail and Income Generation Officer
Hannah Randall - Museum Assistant
Kathy Davis - Museum Assistant

3.1 Appraisals - The Museum team's appraisals have now been completed. Objectives relate to our Forward Plan. If you would like to know more about this do email or call me for more information.

4. VOLUNTEERS

4.2 New Volunteers - We have welcomed 2 new volunteers to the team this quarter. We will be holding a volunteer recruitment drive in The Shires on 9th November.



5. MUSEUM MAKERS

5.1 A Future event which will be towards the end of quarter 2, on Monday 5th September we will hold the first session for our Museum Makers group, where anyone who likes to knit, sew, crochet or weave can come along. The group will make some items to sell in the shop like the knitted mice, and other seasonal items to decorate the museum for events. Participants will pay £1.00 towards the cost of materials, the museum team supply the patterns and equipment needed. We will begin by making Halloween decorations. We'd also like to thank Friends member, Bob Charmbury, for his generous donation towards resources for this group.



6. COLLECTIONS

6.1 Enquiries - This quarter we've received 12 information requests, 9 requests for images, 9 donation offers and 5 other enquiries for a total of 35. We also welcomed a U3A group to view our archive for which they kindly made a donation. We have also assisted the Civic staff and Parade House for future displays they would like to install.

6.2 Research - Dr Kanne from Exeter University has returned the horse bones she borrowed for the Warhorse Project and has sent us some preliminary data including x-rays. DNA testing and other chemical analysis is now underway and will be able to precisely track the movement of the horses found at the Trowbridge Castle dig throughout their lifetime. Dr Kanne will be sending this data along once it has been compiled and the Museum will be included in the final research paper when it is published in due course.

6.3 Collections Management - Staff and volunteers continue to update MODES, although this was hindered by IT issues this quarter, resulting in over 14 hours of lost volunteering time. We have accessioned 301 objects to date this calendar year, not including the folders of postcards, which are still being ordered or new books that have become part of our Research Library. A few interesting examples include local dialect translations, a 1935 school photograph and the shirt to complete our polish Lowicki costume that was used by the Kujawy Polish Folk Dance troupe.



7. EXHIBITIONS

7.1 WEFT - continues to garner extremely positive feedback from those visiting. It runs up until the end of October if you have not yet visited. The flower arch installed by Rock + Wild which has been drying during the exhibition looks great, so we will be keeping it as a permanent feature upstairs, embellishing it depending on season/event.

7.2 Exhibition workshops - The workshops accompanying WEFT have also proven popular; all of them so far have reached, at least, the minimum ticket requirement that we were aiming for and some sold out. Unfortunately our knitting workshop was cancelled by the tutor, due to unforeseen health circumstances.

We also held a craft market as part of WEFT, this was quite well attended with most makers keen to come back in the future. We would very much like to repeat it.

7.3 - We have our temporary exhibitions outlined until 2026, our next for 2022 will be a festive display with Victorian parlour.

7.4 Community exhibition space - This is currently curated by Trowbridge Pride. The display includes different pride flags and meanings. We have the North and West Wiltshire National Trust Association lined up for autumn/winter. However, we have received some lovely visitor comments appreciating the pride display that we hope to make a permanent one celebrating the diversity in the town.

7.4 Friends case - continues to display gorgeous beaded jewellery from the late Phyllis Prior.



8. LEARNING & OUTREACH

8.1 Workshop Summary - We facilitated 32 workshops during the period June - Aug, with a total of 1,223 participants. Income for this period was £617. These figures include 6 school workshops with 9 different classes, 6 Medley sessions, 15 children and family holiday workshops, 3 lifelong learning sessions and 2 events.

8.2 Schools - School visits included two classes from Newtown (Saxons and Vikings and The Great Fire of London) three classes from Studley Green (Romans and The Great Fire of London), and four classes from The Mead who did our Ancient Greek workshop. We try to get every school workshop evaluated by the teachers. Overwhelmingly the resulting evaluations are excellent with the workshop content, resources, staff and volunteers all scoring very high.

“Good consolidation of knowledge & able to revise and recall knowledge from Term 1 also. Thank you for an interesting morning!” (Newtown Primary School)

“We will recommend to the other staff at our school – I’m sure there’ll be lots more wanting a visit” (The Mead Community Primary School)

“Thank you for a fantastic morning” (Newtown Primary School).

8.3 Holiday Workshops - Our May half term holiday workshops for children and families proved to be very popular once again and we predict this year’s summer holidays being our busiest. We continue to lead drop-in activities for the Shires each holiday, as they always prove popular with families and are a great opportunity to market ourselves to families. In addition to the Shires craft, we ran a Jubilee bunting workshop and an Andy Warhol-themed self-portrait/screen printing workshop for older children. Total attendance for the three workshops was 128 children (61, 57 and 10 respectively; ave. 43). We also took part in the Town Council school jubilee event in the park. For this, we devised a Put The Queens in Chronological Order challenge and made Jubilee bunting. We engaged with approximately 70 schoolchildren. We have taken the decision to change from a drop-in model to a pre-booking model from October onwards.

8.4 Medley - There were a further six Medley sessions in June and July and the group has increased in size with 10 participants attending on a regular basis. Activities included making sun prints, a museum portrait tour, and a visit to the TIC whilst on a 're-wilding' nature trail. David and Beatrice met with the Medley's coordinator on 26th August to discuss the year ahead and it was agreed that she would provide some 'Makaton' sign language training this autumn. A programme of twelve sessions has been planned for the period September to December 2022, these will be craft-based using the museum collection and seasons as inspiration.

8.5 Lifelong Learning - We continue delivering talks to various groups, however, our memory work in care and residential homes has yet to pick to pre-covid level yet. North Bradley WI visited for a talk on the history and redevelopment of the museum and tour round and the Monday/Wednesday Club for adults with learning



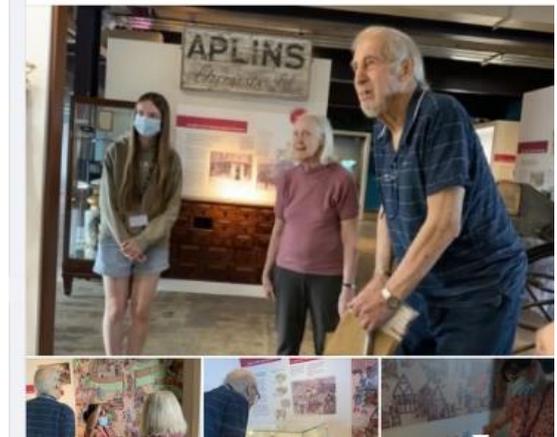
OSJCT Goodson Lodge

14 July · 🌐

With thanks to Beatrice and David from Trowbridge Museum for our wonderful tour earlier this week where we learnt so much about Trowbridge 🇬🇧

Trowbridge is not only our county town but also has a long history as the centre of the woollen cloth industry. We enjoyed reminiscing and looking around and we also took part in some weaving activities. We do love our community here in Trowbridge.

#lovinglifeatgoodson



difficulties were given a talk on the woollen trade and a practical weaving demonstration at the Wesley Road Club.

Goodson Lodge (a care home run by the Orders of Saint John Care Trust) planned two visits with residents including a group with dementia.

8.6 Apprenticeship - The 'Cultural Learning & Participation Officer' apprenticeship being carried out by Beatrice is now in its final stages and her end point assessment will take place on Thursday 13th October. The AIM assessor will spend a whole day at the museum, during which he will observe a school workshop and then have a 2.5 hours 'professional discussion' with Beatrice. Beatrice will be joining the Learning & Outreach team on a permanent basis, working 22.5 hours per week. Kathy, our Museum Assistant, will work one day a week in the Learning department to further support David.

8.8 Resources - We continue to add to our handling collection, especially now that our offering has expanded into new areas of history. We have purchased a number of Ancient Greek resources and a small printing press for art and craft workshops. We have also been given art and craft resources which we have made good use of and have visited the scrap store for various bits and bobs for our holiday workshops.

8.9 Meetings with Teachers – At the end of the June an email was sent to all the local schools inviting them to take part in next year's exhibition to be curated by young people from the local community. This resulted in two meetings with teachers from Studley Green Primary School and St Laurence School which were very positive and will lead to future collaboration.



RESEARCH LIBRARY

9.1 - Work on the Research Library in terms of the set up and opening to the public has all but finished and we are readying ourselves for this to begin active service with us as it were! We have created a new library specific volunteer role to help us manage this space and the final details regarding borrowing have been rubber stamped by the AGWSD.



10. PARTNERSIPS

10.1 - We received an email from Oliver Freise, Curator of the Heimatmuseum in Leer. He wants to take the first steps in reviving the partnership between ourselves, the Heimatmuseum and Elblag Museum. We are hoping to arrange a video call between the 3 of us and Heimat has requested some objects on loan from us for an exhibition next year. It would be interesting if they could return the favour for a future exhibition of ours.

10.2 - We have spoken to a few different U3A groups and are hoping to create some partnerships with, particularly, the history group. This has just been a very early discussion, but one we are keen to develop.

11. MARKETING

11.1 Magazine listings - We continue to advertise with a number of local magazines including West Wilts magazine, the Bath and Wiltshire Parent and Primary Times.

11.2 Website - We continue to update our website on a regular basis with up-to-date information, including crafts, exhibition and workshop details. News stories and blog posts focusing on the collection and the shop have been written and are scheduled to be published weekly through to the new year. 'Behind the scenes' posts are added on an ad hoc basis.

11.3 Social Media - We continue to update our socials at least 3 times a week with up-to-date information, including crafts, exhibition and workshop details as well as images from our collection, 'on this day' info and posts calling for more information on objects in our collection.

11.4 Newsletters - The first supporters club newsletter has been planned, staff have written articles with a 'cosy' theme and are working on collating it into an engaging newsletter.



12. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Over quarter one there have been some queries and question regarding some of the objects and displays within the museum. These questions have been answered Appendix B

Appendix A

Museum Quarter 1 Actuals 2022-23

I01	Museum Operation	Qtr 1 Actuals 2022/2023	Qtr 1 Budget 2022/2023	Variance Favourable (Adverse)	Annual Budget 2022/2023
	EXPENDITURE				
4001	Staff-Salaries	£34,965	£32,987	£1,978	£147,113
4002	Employers NI	£2,837	£1,138	£1,699	£12,828
4003	Rentals	£51,60	£1,314	£50,286	£21,726
4008	Staff-Training	£0	£270	£270	£1,080
4009	Staff-Traveling	£86	£138	£52	£340
4016	Cleaning Services/Materials	£7	£84	£77	£280
4020	Miscellaneous	£105	£0	£105	£0
4022	Postage	£16	£0	£16	£0
4024	Subscriptions	£273	£324	£51	£1,300
4032	Marketing	£20,50	£1,000	£19,500	£8,000
4038	Equipment purchase	£12,60	£240	£12,360	£10,000
4037	Equipment Maintenance	£32	£126	£94	£500
4052	Bank Charges	£32	£0	£32	£0
4053	Loan Repayments Interest	£5,634	£1,664	£3,970	£22,227
4054	Loan Repayments Capital	£6,944	£6,752	£192	£27,480
4071	GRV/DIS	£16	£84	£68	£280
4101	Conservation	£12,14	£999	£11,141	£4,000
4102	Cost of Temp. Exhibitions	£23,13	£999	£22,134	£4,000
4106	Education Expenses	£1,463	£1,251	£212	£5,000
4110	Rentals Accrual	£20,66	£0	£20,66	£0
4164	Refreshments/Water	£15	£21	£6	£200
4196	Shoe Stock	£2,450	£3,000	£550	£12,000
4199	Events and Catering	£242	£999	£757	£4,000
	Sub Total Expenditure	£102,250	£67,367	£34,883	£273,324
	INCOME				
1002	Donations	£474	£750	£276	£3,000
1011	Education	£611	£1,740	£1,129	£7,000
1112	Shoe	£3,586	£4,000	£414	£20,040
1113	Workshops	£0	£999	£999	£4,000
1114	Collections	£233	£126	£107	£500
1121	Events and Fundraising	£760	£3,240	£2,480	£13,000
	Sub Total Income	£5,704	£10,873	£5,170	£47,540
	Net Actual Cost	£96,546	£56,494	£40,052	£225,844

I04	Grants Cultural	Qtr 1 Actuals 2022/2023	Qtr 1 Budget 2022/2023	Variance Favourable (Adverse)	Annual Budget 2022/2023
	EXPENDITURE				
4711	Grants Trowbridge Arts	£10,000	£10,000	£0	£10,000
4730	Grants Historic Building	£750	£750	£0	£3,000
	Sub Total Expenditure	£10,750	£10,750	£0	£13,000

SUMMARY FIGURES			
Museum Qtr 1 (April '22 - June '22)	Actual	Budget	Variance
Gross Expenditure	£68,338	£67,367	£971
Income	£5,703	£10,873	£5,170
Net	£62,635	£56,494	£6,141

SUMMARY FIGURES			
Grants Cultural Qtr 1 (April '22 - June '22)	Actual	Budget	Variance
Gross Expenditure	£10,750	£10,750	£0
Income	£0	£0	£0
Net	£10,750	£10,750	£0

Total	£74,386	£67,364	£7,022
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Appendix B

1. By whom and when was the decision made to cut up the run of drug drawers from Aplins?

By local artists Jen Hamblin and Katryn Saqui in 2020

2. What was the reason given for doing this?

The two identical sets of drawers had been located in the Open Store since 1991, and had never been accessioned. When we closed in 2019 the decision was made to accession a set to our collection, not both (as this would mean having duplicate items). The set that was in better condition was chosen. The other set needed an alternative location/ home. The artists that curated our launch exhibition 'Illuminating the Overlooked' felt that they could give the drawers a home as part of their Trowbridge Stories Shuttle which was originally part of the exhibition here, and is now part of an exhibition at the Town Hall. The shuttle would be taken to different locations in the Town, recording the musings and memories of the people of Trowbridge. We felt this was a good place and use for an item that we could not/ would not be keeping at the Museum. We were not aware they would trim a side off, but they did so to make it work within the exhibition context and they no longer belonged to the Museum.

3. How much did it cost to have the run of drawers altered?

It cost nothing.

4. How much was it sold for?

Nothing, it was not sold, it was freely given.

5. Why was the drawer of Aplins labels disposed of?

When the Aplin's collection was accessioned in the 1980's, **hundreds** of the same, identical labels were accessioned. This is poor Museum practise by the standards of today and would not be acceptable. During the collection's rationalisation 20 of each different type of label were kept within the collection, the rest were disposed of.

6. When and by whom was the decision made to throw away the '99 Miles to London' plate from the Trowbridge Turnpike Trust mile stone on the Hilperton Road?

Thank you for bringing it to our attention. We have now looked into this matter, we checked MODES for the reasons it was deaccessioned and saw that according to our database, it was still a Museum object. We then checked the deaccessioning lists and could not see it on there either. We think that what must have happened is that during the decant of 25,000 objects this sign was put into an incorrect pile, and joined a number of signs that were to be deaccessioned. The matter was further complicated by the fact that a volunteer had marked the object on MODES as located in 2020, so we were unaware it was missing. The object is now coming back to us as the accessioned object that it is.

7. Why was this particular item not considered important enough to be retained in the museum? N/A

- 8. Where is the cupboard made from the pew doors from the chapel that once stood beside the loom? The cupboard was made by the factory workers and was an aid to the interpretation of their lives in the workplace.**

It's in the collection store. It had been on display for 30 years, longer than generally acceptable for a Museum object. It is resting in the low light and temperature and dry conditions of the store. It will be displayed again in the future within the context of a planned exhibition and considered story.

- 9. When is the name Rev Dark going to be removed from the montage of names when it should read the Rev John Clark?**

This has now been corrected.

- 10. The name and date on the fire engine are both incorrect. The machine is mid 19th century and came from the Court Mills factory. These errors must be corrected.**

We are aware of the error of the date and name on the engine, this information is listed on the MODES entry for this object. It came to the Museum and was accessioned with the incorrect date and name in **2001** and has been like this ever since (it also states on MODES that the colours are incorrect). It is assumed that these were all added by whoever restored the pump before Ken Rogers located it in Swindon. Unfortunately any decision to rectify these errors should have been taken **BEFORE** it was accessioned in **2001**, as once an object is part of a Museum collection you cannot just paint over parts of it. Indeed CMAS has advised us against tampering with the paintwork on the engine as it may expose original lead paint which would be hazardous. Though the information in the interpretation text for this object **IS** correct, so that visitors are not confused by the difference between the two we have added a note on the engine to explain why the date and name are not correct that also discusses the problems and ethics of retrospective restoration versus conservation.

- 11. Both looms had the warp removed when they were moved up to the second floor so when is the warp going to be replaced because to the public, they both look meaningless.** The ancient warp was removed to protect the object from the pests that had made it their home. It has always been the plan to replace the warp on the floor loom. Unfortunately this loom was damaged during its move upstairs and we need to repair it before we warp it up again. Kathy is in talks with some Guild members who will hopefully come to site, fix the loom and warp it up. They have the expertise to do this.

We are reluctant to warp up the Dobcross; the object has had enough stress being taken apart and moved to the upper floor. There is video footage of this loom being used in Homemills in the 1970's on one of our AV's which gives a far more visceral insight into the workings of the loom.

- 12. What was the cost of moving the Hattersley loom?**

Nothing.

As a deaccessioned object (which went through Committee) we were able to accept payment for it of around £300, which by Accreditation rules has to be spent on conservation of the collection. A list with where the expenditure went was provided to Committee in 2019. The loom now resides in Scotland where it produces cloth for a small business.

The move of the Hattersley was reported to Committee and contained within the Curator's Report in March 2019, item 3.9.

13. The miniature spinning wheel is a rare and valuable artefact so why is it placed beside a children's area where it is frequently handled and the leather straps tangled up when it should be behind glass?

We asked the opinion of an expert who works with the Wiltshire Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers. This is what they said:

'The wheel in question is a double drive wheel type and the technical operation of it depends on the relationship between the large drive wheel, the bobbin and the whorl, The drive band wraps around the larger wheel, the whorl and the bobbin in a figure of 8. When the spinner is spinning the band drives (moves) these parts, and in order for the yarn to 'wind on' the drive band must 'slip' on the whorl and 'grip' on the bobbin. For this reason, the diameter of the drive band is crucial as it sits in the grooves of the bobbin and whorl. If the drive band is too fine, it may not grip enough or if it's too thick, it will not sit in the groove and do its job. The leather 'drive band' is far too thick to operate the wheel and must be a later edition. I would suggest the leather drive band is just for show because the wheel can't operate with it on at all. A non-spinner would not know this technical fault, ' but a spinner would know at first glance. Additionally, the wheel looks as though it might've once had legs because if you look underneath there are holes, which have been plugged. This could possibly have been where the legs went. As far as I understand proper table top spinning wheels were a thing made for wealthy ladies as a creative pursuit; a bit like embroidery etc., The valuable ones are beautifully ornate; made from exotic wood, with mother of pearl, ivory or bone embellishments etc., not ones cut down from a regular spinning wheel to act like a table top wheel. Also, other things that make it valuable would be a wheel with its parts intact. This wheel has lost its distaff, which isn't uncommon as the distaff separates from the wheel easily and a lot of antique wheels with distaffs have it missing. Out of interest, I think it would've spun flax, as there is a space where the distaff was (flax is dressed onto a distaff) and there is, what looks like, spun flax on the bobbin. A maker's name adds provenance but it's quite unusual to have a name and this one certainly doesn't have one.'

With this information about the wheel in question the staff feel confident the wheel could and should stay where it is and provide engagement and interpretation. However if Councillors feel strongly on this point we will place the wheel in the collection store or find a place for it in a case (See recommendation within Quarterly Report).

14. When are the items at the Town Hall which belong to the Town Council going to be brought to the museum? (The dedication plate from the Town Pump and the memorial from Conigre Chapel).

They do not belong to the Town Council. We have investigated the provenance of the items at the Town Hall and confirmed that they are owned by Wiltshire Council. We would like to accession these objects into our collection and so some time ago got the ball rolling on this. Heather Perry, our Museum Development Officer and Wiltshire Council employee has taken on this matter and is ascertaining who at Wiltshire Council can sign the transfer of ownership over to us. Until the relevant Officer from Wiltshire Council signs the objects over to us we cannot take them. This would be stealing. A full update on this matter was provided at the Collections Panel meeting on 1st July.

15. Please provide a list of all items disposed of during the museum refurbishment.

All items disposed of went to the Museum Committee and were put forward as a recommendation for deaccessioning, and were passed. Councillor Bridges was provided the list again on request.

16. When are the Act of Parliament Clock, and the United Church clock from the Silver Street Chapel going to be put on display?

Certain objects may not make sense within the current exhibits; that's not to say they won't be on display in the future; good Museum practise states that around 10% of static exhibits should change on a yearly basis. You may have noticed we have already re curated our Costume Case with different objects on display. We are always happy (excited!) to talk about our objects and discuss ideas, however if we took dictates from lots of different individuals the Museum cases would be a mess and tell no coherent story. If that dictate came from the Museum Committee as a whole, as our Governing Body that would be a different matter.

Final point: There are two wonderful clocks on display. The other two are in the store resting (again, they have been displayed for 30 years). We will most likely swap these around in a few years so that all can be enjoyed by visitors in their turn and all are rested within the store.

17. What was the reasoning behind passing the Trowbridge linen press to Chippenham?

This was explained and detailed in the Curator's report of July 2018, item 3.5. The Linen press is a generic historic item, not relating directly to Trowbridge History or the Woollen Cloth industry, and so would not be accessioned according to our CDP if it were offered today. As such, it joined the items proposed for deaccessioning (that was APPROVED by the Museum Committee in 2018). As you may know once items have been deaccessioned from a collection they must in the first instance be offered to other Museums. We followed this protocol and Chippenham Museum wished to take this and a number of other items that we deaccessioned (I believe for a temporary exhibition). This is a good result for a deaccessioned Museum object.

18. Why is the extremely rare clock reel not on display? (one of only two known).

The clock reel has been on display for 30 years, and so according to good Museum practise should be rested within the store for a while before being re- displayed.

The other option would be for the Museum to invest in light, temperature and humidity controlled cases. These are many thousands of pounds but could be something for us to aim for in the future.

19. Why is Sir Isaac Pitman confined to a drawer in the museum when as an internationally known character who changed the lives of many women through his version of shorthand? He should have a much more prominent position in the museum along with the poet George Crabbe?

There are references to Isaac Pitman in 4 different locations in the Museum. This is actually the most of any other character from Trowbridge's history apart from George Crabbe. He has a drawer, as you say, that tells you where and when he was born, what he invented and where, the impact this had, when he was knighted. We also talk about how this system was exported around the world and changed lives. We also have on display (within this drawer), 2 examples of shorthand, two medals that he was awarded and a newspaper exert honouring him. He also has a marble plinth and plaque within our Research Library, is on the wall of our great and good of Trowbridge and a second, side profile bust of him displayed on the wall in the Upper Gallery.

George Crabbe has a whole plinth to tell his story, including his writing desk, a text panel, and a large image of him. He also has a portrait of his image on the wall and his own section on one of the Audio Visuals. Is there more information that is felt we should be

displaying or telling about their stories that is not within that information? And on that plinth? If Councillors wish to search through MODES to find any significant objects they feel we may have missed in the telling of the Crabbe and Pitman stories please let me know.

20. Why does the firm of Hadens not have a greater show on the gallery?

We get very few enquiries or requests for further information relating to Hadens. This leads us to believe we probably have the right level of information on this individual firm.

21. When will the Ken Rogers collection of writing items be available for collection?

The writing collection has been ready for collection since June 2022. A number of the Friends Committee were informed of this fact.