

Avoncroft Museum Fundraising Department

Supporters' NEWS

Moving towards Excellence - April 2015 - March 2018

Our three year Arts Council England project will be completed at the end of March 2018. A separate document will be produced and circulated following the completion of this project.



Don't Forget...
we are always
grateful for your help

If you have any unwanted/duplicate gifts please donate them to us for raffle or tombola prizes.

Our next fundraising event will be:
Emily Maguire Folk Concert, Sunday 23rd June 2018.
This is supported by the Elmley Foundation.

Tickets £15.00 available from the Museum shop.
Please call 01527 831363 to book.

If you would like to visit the Museum to discuss support,
or find out more about our work, please contact
Rachel Shepherd, Head of Development,
on 01527 889978

Museum Facts and Figures January – December 2017
Visitors: 41,320 School children: 2,830
Days open: 289 Flour sold: 863kg



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April –
September
2018

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At Avoncroft we are extremely grateful for all the strong support given to us by everyone who feels that our wonderful buildings, and their stories, should be preserved for future generations. As the number of supporters has risen enormously in the last few years, the Fundraising Team has produced a dedicated newsletter for our supporters. We are keen to thank you and demonstrate how your invaluable contributions to the Museum make a difference and enable us to preserve the Midlands' heritage for the future.

With many thanks,

Rachel, Joy and Yvonne

The Fundraising Team

Contact: Rachel Shepherd, Head of Development,
development@avoncroft.org.uk

Primrose Hospice project

The aim of this unique project is to enable people with life-limiting illnesses and their families to attend special activity days at the Museum. The activity days provide an environment that encourages communication, exploration of emotions, resilience building and a space to enjoy time with family and friends.

In 2017 we welcomed the children's and family group (supporting those with a parent with a terminal illness); the GALS Group (supporting young women with a terminal illness); the men's group and the widowers group. The activities that were chosen included afternoon tea, creative writing, jewellery making, den making, and an Avoncroft quest. In September we trialled a special 6 week wellbeing course where people who had been newly diagnosed with a life-limiting illness could come together in a supportive environment. This course was designed to give the participants space to express emotions; build a network of people going through the same emotions and issues; give them an opportunity to take part in fun and creative activities.

Project cost: £10,000 with thanks to The Connie and Albert Taylor Trust



When will we see the Windmill working?

In 2016 the windmill was put out of action due to discovery of rot in the sails. This meant it was too dangerous to sail the windmill throughout the 2017 season whilst we fundraised for the costs of conservation work. The great news is that the funds are now in place and during May/June 2018 the sails will be taken off the windmill and replaced in time for the new season. See our Facebook page for updates and photos.

Want to take a piece of history home? We are now selling our flour in the Museum shop. There are 6 types of single grain varieties to choose from and feedback from our visitors and local artisan bakers has been extremely positive.

Project cost: £27,918 with thanks to The Droitwich Preservation Society, The GJW Turner Trust, The Edward Cadbury Trust, The Primrose Trust, The Delves Trust and the AF Blakemore Foundation.

Airing Court Shelter - Phase 2

Work is continuing on the Barnsley Hall Airing Court Shelter. Avoncroft's Wednesday volunteer maintenance team has been busy glazing the windows with laminated glass panels. Work is now underway to begin fitting the seats. One bay is being recreated using the remaining original seat timbers that were salvaged. We are very grateful to the volunteers for their time and expertise.

New funds have been secured to provide a pathway to the shelter as well as to fund research and the development of a temporary exhibition for November 2018. This will explore the impact of the First World War on the mental health of survivors and the role played by asylums in rehabilitation.

Project costs: £10,200 with thanks to the HLF Worcestershire World War One 100 Project Fund, The Droitwich Preservation Society and The Ian Addison Charitable Foundation.

Development of our new education programme

In 2016/2017 we identified that the Museum's Education Programme needed updating in the light of National Curriculum changes. A Consultant was employed to complete the research and provide recommendations for a new more interactive and hands-on programme. The new sessions that have been trialled have been very well received by schools and we aim to roll out and promote the new programme fully in September 2018.

Project costs: £6,000 with thanks to The Primrose Trust and The Baron Davenport Charitable Trust.

New Touch Tours

Our Curatorial Team has been developing our new Touch Tours. These tours will give our visitors the opportunity to go behind the barriers and explore our collection by handling the objects. We are developing ongoing partnerships with other charities, such as Age Concern and The Alzheimer's Society, to develop the tours.

Edwardian 'Norwich' Telephone Kiosk

One of the last original 1905 Norwich Type Telephone Boxes has been rescued from the back garden of a house in Cambridgeshire by our curators. Once conserved it will go on display as part of the National Telephone Kiosk Collection which is based at the Museum. The Norwich Box is believed to be one of the oldest surviving public telephone boxes in existence pre-dating the iconic red telephone boxes designed by Gilbert Scott in 1924.

The kiosk will be restored by our dedicated and skilful kiosk volunteer team.

Project costs: Anonymous donation

We have a new loo!

The new composting toilet is eco-friendly and part of the Museum's green initiative. The compost made will eventually be used on the Museum's historic gardens. The new toilet is a modern day equivalent of one of the most popular exhibits - the 18th century three seat Privy.

Project costs: £3,500 from Bromsgrove District Council New Homes Bonus Community Grants Scheme

Kia Launch

The Museum was host to a large-scale 5-day corporate hire at the end of April 2017 for a training event for the Kia sales force to ensure they were fully trained for the launch of the new Kia Picanto. Approximately 140 delegates from across the country attended the Museum each day, taking part in a Crystal Maze style challenge with Avoncroft becoming 'the Heritage Zone'.

