

# Newton's Place Museum Design Brief



Dear Designer,

Following a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Newton's Place project is now underway.

The £2.2m project involves conversion of a disused, Grade II listed, Victorian church near the centre of Newton Abbot (St Leonard's Church in Wolborough Street), and relocation of the Town Council and Newton Abbot Town & GWR Museum to the new building. The vision of Newton's Place is to create an accessible community space that celebrates heritage, town and community and challenges pre-conceived ideas of a museum and Town Council by operating in one welcoming environment.



Building on our popular railway room, Lethbridge's diving machine display and impressive 16th century carvings, we will be able to tell more stories of Newton Abbot and surrounding areas in enticing and innovative ways, bringing items from our stores for the first time and creating a people's museum with community at its heart.

The new dedicated museum space on the ground floor is approximately 2.5 times larger than the existing museum at 274m<sup>2</sup>, and we will have opportunities for additional displays throughout the whole building. This will include the community rooms which will be located on the upper floor, installed as part of the building conversion works, plus other communal areas.

Draft architectural plans have been drawn up and are attached for your information. The plans show indicative positions for some of the main displays, but these are not fixed. In addition, the café, reception desk, ramp, glass wall near the entrance door, etc. may all change as the project is developed and plans are refined. Please note that the re-calculated museum space is now 274m<sup>2</sup> rather than the 267m<sup>2</sup> figure as shown on the plans. We expect that the appointed museum designer will work closely with the architect and members of the project working group to finalise the overall design. Existing church features such as the font, pulpit and stained glass windows will be retained and incorporated into the overall design.

We anticipate that the museum designer will be appointed at the end of September 2017. We will require the initial concept and design to be produced by December 2017, with detailed proposals, plans and costings drawn up by the end of February 2018. This will enable us to submit our Round 2 funding bid to HLF by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. We have an expected project completion date of December 2019.

Indicative costs for the museum design and fit out, plus museum stores design and fit out are:

- Phase 1 (known as development phase by HLF), July 2017 - June 2018: £40k
- Phase 2 (known as delivery phase by HLF), July 2018 - Dec 2019: £364k

Please note, however, that the museum stores are excluded from this brief. If you would also like to undertake the stores design and fit out, in addition to the museum design/fit-out work, please indicate this in your response with a separate estimate of costs.

On the following pages we have included more information on the design principles and eight key themes for the museum displays.

Please note that this brief **includes**:

- concept, plans and overall design;
- design and production of graphics and artwork;
- cases, stands and other display infrastructure/materials including interactive exhibits and technology;
- lighting for the museum displays, plus control of humidity within the larger cases where needed (e.g. for the costume displays);
- display infrastructure installation costs.

Please note that this brief **excludes**:

- design and fit out of the museum store (but please supply a separate cost estimate for this element of the project if you are interested in this work);
- control of humidity, temperature, and UV within the building itself - these will be addressed separately during building conversion works;
- specialist installation of museum artefacts such as the railway signals/levers and the 16th century oak carvings.

This brief is by no means exhaustive, and we remain open minded and prepared to adapt to new creative ideas, but the new museum design must reflect the museum's Mission Statement:

*The role of the museum is to "excite curiosity" and to promote understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the town.*

Museum Key Aims:

- To establish the Newton Abbot Town and GWR Museum as a locally recognised centre for family and lifelong learning.
- To develop formal and informal learning through the imaginative and innovative use of the museum collections, exhibitions, information and displays inspiring people to enjoy and appreciate the endeavours of previous generations.
- To encourage repeat visitors by offering changing displays, themes and media.
- To increase the use of the museum by all target groups for formal and informal education, and develop new audiences encouraging local communities to become active partners in the development and use of the museum.
- To maintain high standards of customer care, courtesy and to ensure visitor safety, comfort and service.
- To give full consideration to access for people with impaired mobility, and to strive to make suitable provision for others with different access requirements.
- To interact with appropriate bodies to promote the museum and to enhance the skills and knowledge of museum staff and volunteers.

Please don't hesitate to contact the museum to discuss this project further. If you would like to view St Leonard's Church or the current museum, please call or email to arrange a time/date.

Thank you for your interest, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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## **Principles of the design and ideas for further development/discussion**

### *Vision*

- As well as the designated museum area on the ground floor, we will be able to use the rest of the building, creating displays throughout the community rooms, in the walls, floors and stairs, in the lift, suspended from the ceiling and even in the WCs! The development of a new museum is a great opportunity to ‘think outside the box’ and to develop a really exciting and creative community space for the people of Newton Abbot and the surrounding villages.
- The 3 ‘wow factors’ in the current museum are:
  - the working railway signals and levers
  - the replica 18<sup>th</sup> century diving engine
  - the magnificent carved oak over-mantle.

These must be a prominent feature in the new museum. The carvings and signals will need to be located at the rear of the space, near to the Chancel, to accommodate the height of these objects.

- The museum should have an ‘atmosphere’ with objects being creatively displayed. Our collection is very much about the local community - the people and the area. Our Community Engagement Officer will involve and consult with the local community to incorporate the needs and wishes of our surrounding communities into the project/displays.
- The objects themselves may not always be considered to have a high intrinsic value, however, each one is important as it is part of the local history and can be used to illustrate stories of the town and surrounding villages. It’s all about the stories we have to tell. Some showcases will be required, but other secure display ideas will be welcomed. For example, objects could be securely embedded within walls or graphics, with their particular story being highlighted.
- The visitor should be immersed and engaged in the history getting ‘hands-on’ where possible. There should be minimal text, as leaflets and booklets can be purchased for those visitors who want to know more.
- Given the space available, many of these stories might be told within a short film where a historical character could ‘tell’ their story, or describe an outstanding piece of architecture. This could be in the form of projections on a wall or floor.
- We realise that we will probably not have space for all the proposed display themes, but flexible displays that are easily changed will allow us to refresh the exhibitions over time without too much additional expense.

### *General layout*

- The displays should flow with an obvious route to draw visitors in a logical manner through the displays, with interesting flow patterns around the separators, not necessarily at sharp right angles.
- Separation between different displays should be flexible to accommodate changes over time and lightweight showcases installed where possible to allow movement around the space.
- There must be enough space for movement flow around the displays for groups and schools, wheelchair users, and visitors with pushchairs/toddlers.

### *Environmental controls*

- Lighting and other environmental controls (e.g. heat and humidity levels) within individual showcases/displays must comply with museum standard practice, and the Curator will advise on these matters.

### *Different ages*

- The museum space must interest/accommodate all ages. There must be a mix of exhibits using films and technology as well as other interactives, plus exhibits that can be touched, felt and smelt! A desire for more interactives has been a key finding of our visitor surveys, and our exhibition plans will need to address this.
- We are particularly interested in contemporary, hands-on interactives for our early years audience and for young people in general. There must also be an area that will captivate toddlers.
- The older generation must also be catered for, including any specific measures required to appeal to this audience e.g. text size.

### *Learning*

- The museum will be a resource for lifelong learning for all ages.
- The relationship and use by local schools will be greatly increased in the new museum. There will be a need for sections of the displays to fit in with school curriculums and to assist with education through the ages.

### *Features required*

- We would like to have a flexible display within the new building that will be curated by local people. A small 'Your Space' community display case with flexible shelving is required, perhaps situated in the entrance lobby. The designer will work closely with the Curator and Community Engagement Officer to achieve this.
- A showcase for an 'object of the month' should be sited at/near the entrance so this ever-changing display is readily available to regular visitors.
- Our existing 'Threads' cabinet of curiosities with a range of different objects may be appropriate to relocate to the first floor in the new building, so that people attending meetings/events can easily benefit from bite-sized history.
- We have a large collection of photographs and postcards. We would like a small wall area dedicated to the display of these images that will change each month to illustrate a different subject area. These will be copies, so a high level of security is not required. We anticipate there will be a display of around 10-15 photographs/postcards, with captions, each time.
- The memories and photographs of local people using the church for key events in their lives (weddings, christenings, etc.) will form a small display to help interpret the life and history of the building itself.
- Seating/benches incorporating different designs (perhaps to illustrate various display themes) should be installed alongside listening posts and in other areas.
- The space should incorporate a small shop area to sell books, leaflets, cards and other items, and be located near to the reception desk.
- There should be space for installation of an automaton donations box (perhaps the current Lethbridge model adapted for different use by an automaton specialist).
- Within the roof space of St Leonard's church we have long-eared bats, a protected species. If the bats remain after the building work, we would like to provide a CCTV feed from the roof space so visitors are able to view them. We will seek advice from the Bat Conservation Trust on how to do this.

### *Range of abilities/disabilities*

- Visitors, staff and volunteers with a range of disabilities, or those with differing needs, must be considered in all aspects of the design (including sensory, physical and learning disabilities).
- We must ensure the design is a dementia/autism friendly site to encourage new audiences.
- Displays should be at different levels to provide wheelchair users with an enjoyable experience.

### *Technology*

- An interesting feature might be a small surface table, or a group of embedded ipads with touchscreens, where visitors can access and select objects, images, captions, documents, etc. from files to curate their own electronic exhibition and print out/email/add to social media, their virtual display. Ideally this should be for more than one visitor/child at a time to stop frustration or disappointment. We expect to discuss the format of this technology in more detail with the designer.
- We require space (small desk and PC or equivalent) to access oral archives, digitised photographs, films and electronic manuscripts.
- A variety of telephone handsets (probably replicas) from different eras relevant to each display could be installed, enabling visitors to listen to recordings associated with different exhibits.

## Key themes for displays

1. **Engineering and Inventions: comprising Railways, Lethbridge, other technologies.**  
**Emphasis on displays to illustrate engineering through the ages, linking technology old and new.**

### (a) Railways



Our working signal box, levers and bells will be relocated to the new site and the GWR collection on display will be expanded. Height of signals – 4.6m (extends into pit below). Railing around base 2.4m x 1.6m. Measurements of levers and light box above:

- o Height – 4m (extends into pit below)
- o Width – 2.7m
- o Depth of levers – 0.8m

More railway artefacts will be displayed and there is an opportunity to create fresh interpretations to illustrate the town's important railway history. We currently have a working model of the broad gauge carriage and atmospheric system track and buildings, plus lots of other railway memorabilia.



A section of I K Brunel's atmospheric pipe.

Diameter – 0.9m

### *Stories we'd like to tell about the railways:*

- The coming of the railways to the town, and the impact on the town's development, economic prosperity, employment and community life.

- Brunel's connection with the town and surrounding area through the development of the Broad Gauge and Atmospheric System. The collection includes a section of the atmospheric pipe (see photo/dimensions above), a resin bust of Brunel on a marble plinth (base 23cm<sup>2</sup>, height 35cm) and signed letters from Brunel and Gooch.



- Establishment of the South Devon Railway (SDR) and Great Western Railway (GWR) and development up to the present day.
- Station architecture and development.
- Engineering expertise: toolmaking, locomotive development, signalling systems, mechanics and maintenance.

*Other new items for display or re-designed displays (dependent on space available):*

- A working cross-section model of the atmospheric system - to be produced by the Broad Gauge Society (BGS). We have raised this as a possibility with the BGS, but it may not come to fruition as the members are volunteers. If this idea develops, we will expect the museum designer to work alongside BGS members to discuss this particular aspect of the display to fit the needs of the museum.
- Re-design of the current displays of model locomotives within the collection, which includes 5 model locomotives. A minimum of two of these models (shown below) will need to be displayed within showcases.



**5" gauge model of 7200 class locomotive. Stand: 139 x 31 cm**



**3.5" gauge model of GWR 4578. Stand: 77 x 18 cm**

- A new, small model railway layout with circular track (suspended from the ceiling, perhaps?)
- Railway costumes: uniforms, boiler-suits, hats, ties, etc. and around 30 loose uniform buttons.
- Railway memorabilia: enamel badges, ticket punches, tickets, tea can boiler, rule books, strike notices, pay packets, look out horns and hooters, oil cans and notices, posters and adverts, ashtrays, toilet roll holders, soap, beer bottles, tea measuring glass, GWR magazines.



- Railway posters, signs and certificates (framed). One signed by Cuneo.



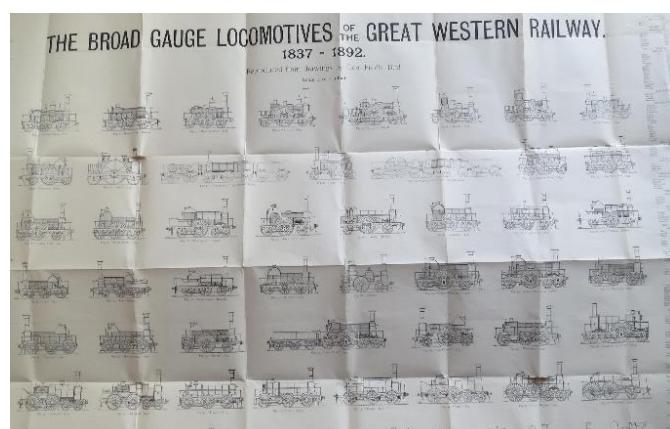
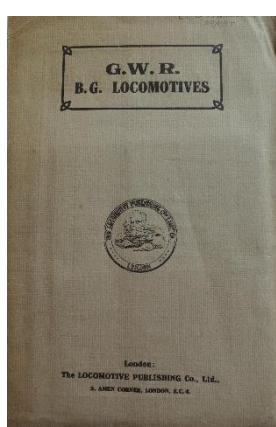
- A small selection of GWR jigsaw puzzles (approx. 10).



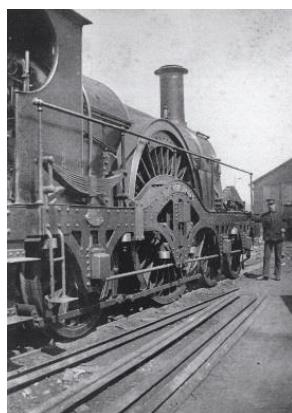
- Mr Besley's rare West of England Railway Companion (late 1800s) - a concertina pull-out guide from Exeter to Newton Abbot with views.



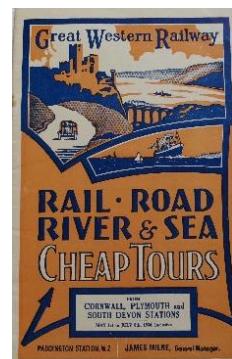
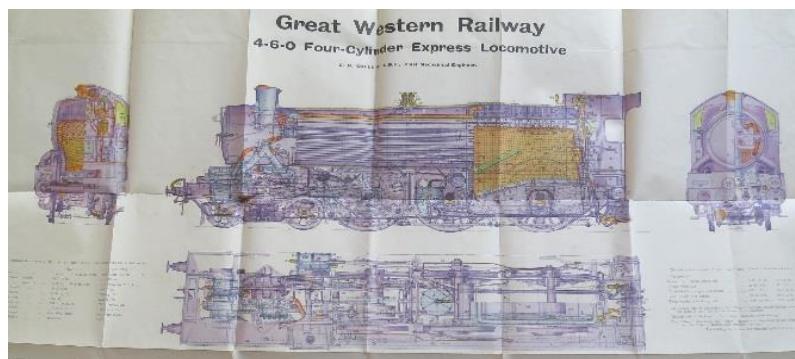
- Broad Gauge Locomotive Catalogue 1892 - pull out catalogue of locomotive line drawings



- A large number of railway photographs through the ages (including the rare Nisbet collection of 175 Broad Gauge images of Newton Abbot and the local area photographed in 1892) can be used to augment displays (but these can also form part of the digitised archives).



- Documents, including:
  - Plan of Queen Victoria's funeral carriage
  - 'Death of the Broad Gauge' pamphlet and rare map of the proposed SDR routes 1844
  - Contracts for refreshment rooms at Newton Abbot station
  - Internal locomotive engineering drawings
  - Colourful pamphlets: Rail and Road Tours from the 1930s, GWR excursion pamphlets 1925



- There is a possibility that we may also be able to obtain a railway simulator from the present GWR.

#### (b) Lethbridge

The John Lethbridge display of this 18<sup>th</sup> century inventor and wreck salvage pioneer will be refreshed. We would like to explore possibilities for making the scale model of his diving engine (left hand photo - height 2m, width 0.9m) an interactive piece where visitors can experience what it would have been like to dive the deep.



We will investigate whether the current interactive Lethbridge automaton (right hand photo) can be adapted for a different use as a donations box.

### (c) Other technologies

We would like to cover the development of more modern technologies, encouraging local industries to become involved e.g. Centrax Industries and Teignbridge Propellers, based in Newton Abbot and key players in the gas turbines and power generation field.

Centrax has previously loaned a brass jet engine to us, and we would like to make arrangements for something similar (perhaps on a smaller scale) in the new museum.

## 2. ***Conservation in Action***

- (a) The cornerstone of this theme will be the magnificent, renaissance oak carvings of the Sandford Orleigh fire surround dating from 1522. Height: 3.6m, width: 2.7m. The display currently features details of the restoration process with community involvement, alongside information on the interpretation of the carved symbols.

To augment the display, we would like a method of visitors being able to view carvings at a higher level (perhaps with a zooming camera/telescope system).

- (b) Information on the conservation of St Leonard's Church and how we restored the building.
- (c) Information about the role of museums in conservation and care of collections – what we do, why we do it and how we do it.



## 3. ***Early History & Growth of the Town***

We would like to illustrate the origins, early history and growth of the town (from the two separate towns either side of the river) with timelines and maps - perhaps in a digital format to illustrate the growth over time to the present day. We already have an interactive map of key features around the town in the Town Trail on our website. Perhaps a screen to access an improved version of this map might be useful.

Other possible displays include:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> century settlements of Milber and Bury Down.
- The Viking invasions up the River Teign.
- The Norman motte and bailey castle in Highweek (a Scheduled Ancient Monument).
- The two medieval towns either side of the River Lemon (and the river's impact on the town).
- Dissolution of the monasteries; development of the churches and chapels of the town including Puritan's Pit in Bradley Woods.
- The Yarde and Bushel Family of Bradley Manor (now owned by the National Trust).
- Development of the market from the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Globe Hotel – top coaching inn of the SW in the 1840s.



- Architects & architecture of the town. We have several plasterwork samples to illustrate this.
  - Development of the town quay and other transport links (Stover Canal, Granite Tramway).
  - Development of the town centre, residential streets/areas and open spaces/parks: many of the museum enquiries are based around the public's interest in the house they live in and/or their own family history.
  - Flooding in the town centre and the building of the Holbeam Dam.
  - Forde House history and the Civil War in Newton Abbot.
  - Lucy Reynell's connections with Elizabeth 1.
  - Lords of the Manor and the civic history of the town (this display may be better suited in the large community room upstairs as this is where the Town Council will hold its committee meetings).
  - 1688 - William of Orange's declaration to become King of England first announced in Newton Abbot.
  - Local archaeological finds (some as loans): the Romano-British site at Ipplepen, from the Kingskerswell by-pass construction, and other items found in Newton Abbot. This will be the first time the museum has been able to interpret the early history of the area.



The 15<sup>th</sup> century documents from the era of Henry VII within the collection could be used to tell the story of the importance of a scribe in those times, and give visitors the opportunity to try their hand at using a quill pen and ink.

**4. Trade & Industry:** comprising Aller Vale pottery, Templer family & Stover Canal, Vicary family - wool & leather, Newfoundland fishing industry, rope making, ball clay, farming & Wednesday markets, shops/cafes/pubs, ophthalmology.

(a) Aller Vale pottery



The Aller Vale Art Pottery, formed in 1865, was made from local clay and using natural colourants collected from the surrounding landscape. John Phillips, the founder, also ran evening classes for local people, introducing them to the Arts and Crafts movement. The museum Aller Vale collection (14 pieces) is regarded as one of special interest, particularly by the international Torquay Pottery Collectors Society.

We have other examples of local souvenir pottery (20<sup>th</sup> century) that could be used to illustrate the start of the tourist industry.



We also have a large collection of local 1960s/70s pottery which might form a helix/spiral or 'cup and saucer' for the public to view the collection as an art form.

(b) Templer family & Stover Canal



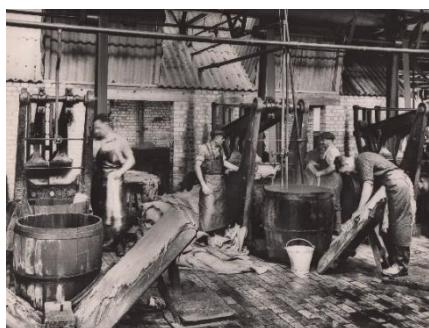
The Templer family built the Haytor Granite tramway, the Stover Canal and the New Quay in Teignmouth harbour. The Templer family have items and portraits that they would be willing to loan to the museum. These loaned objects might make a temporary exhibition or augment the main Trade & Industry display.

The Stover Canal Trust will be allocated space to promote their heritage group and recruit volunteers. The museum designer will be expected to work alongside the museum and the trust to produce displays.



(c) Vicary family - wool & leather

The Vicary family established the wool and leather industries in the town. The museum has early Victorian family portraits, images of the family homes, industry photographs (internal & aerial), and a collection of amusing cartoons created by Charles Lane Vicary on subjects from the wool industry to topical events of the day.



(d) Newfoundland fishing industry

The Newfoundland fishing industry of the 16<sup>th</sup> century employed many local men. Fish hooks and patented fishing knives were made at Holbeam Mill. We have various documents and photographs to illustrate the stories.

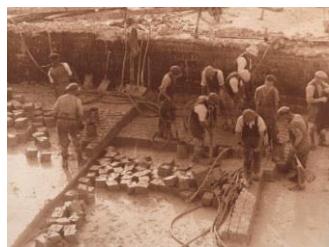


(e) Rope making

Ropes made in Newton Abbot were for the farming and fishing industries. The museum has the original patent documents from 1876 (bearing Queen Victoria's seal) for Ephraim Yeo's rope making machine, plus an unusual rope swing made from human hair! The rope making display could include a simple rope making tool for children to use.



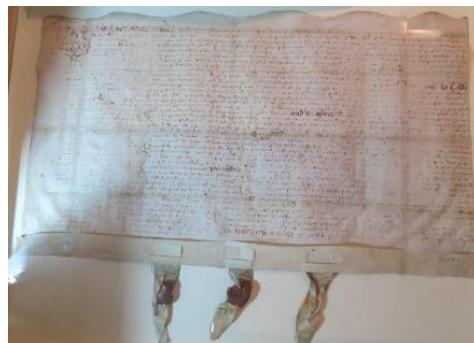
### (e) Ball Clay



The Ball Clay industry in the Bovey Basin extracted clay to be used by Wedgwood and was transported all over the world. The Ball Clay Society based in Newton Abbot is keen to display their historical objects, photographs and information. The museum designer will be expected to work alongside the museum and the society to produce displays. The museum has large ledgers from Watts, Blake, Bearne dating from 1871 with details of sales of ball clay.

### (f) Farming & Wednesday markets

The farming industry and the Wednesday markets are important in the development of the town. The museum collection comprises of a small number of old farming hand tools and animal traps, numerous images of the market over time, the 1606 market charter, the 18<sup>th</sup> century mortice and lock, and the contract for the sale of the market in 1867.



### (g) Shops, Cafés & Pubs

Numerous well-loved family-run shops formed an important part of Newton Abbot's retail area. This display could link with the growth and development of the town (see section 3) including notable architectural buildings such as the Globe Hotel, Passmore Edwards Centre library, Devon Square and the Alexandra Theatre.



We have a selection of trade tokens dating from 1668, a £5 Newton bank note dated 1841, numerous coins, and paperwork from 1878 relating to the management of a coffee tavern in Newton Bushel.

Key examples of shops, cafés and pubs:

- *Austin's department store*: opened in 1924 and now occupies five buildings in Courtenay St. The family are keen to work with the museum to share their story, and have numerous historical photographs that could be used in displays.
- *Bibbings' Pharmacy*: now a tea shop, it still has all the original wooden shop fittings and mosaic floors fitted by Italian workman in the late 1800s. We have a selection of Bibbings' chemist & perfume bottles and internal/external photographs of the shop.



- *Madge Mellor's café*: fondly remembered as the place to go for afternoon tea. We have furniture, teapots, cutters & moulds, menus, crockery, an illuminated cut-out metal shop sign and various staff photographs.



- *Pubs*: many old pubs still exist in the town, including the Cider Bar which is believed to be one of only 4 remaining cider houses in the UK. An interesting story is the Ale Taster visiting pubs to check that the ale wasn't watered down (started in Medieval times).

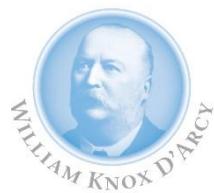
#### (h) Ophthalmology

We have a large collection of Eubulous Williams' ophthalmic equipment including a box of false eyes, eye testing equipment, ophthalmic books, spectacle frames and tinted lenses.



### 5. Notable Newtonians

Our popular Notable Newtonians display celebrates some of the many fascinating characters connected to the town. These individuals have all made a lasting contribution to history on a local, national or global scale. We have researched and profiled over 50 individuals, with the key examples outlined below being displayed in our current location:



- Alfred Hitchcock's silent movie star actress, Norah Baring. We have a copy of one of her early films.
- The first woman to be called to the Bar of England & Wales in 1922, Dr Ivy Williams. We have on a loan a barrister's wig and box from c.1920.
- One of the principal founders of the oil and petrochemical industry, William Knox-D'Arcy (no artefacts, just information).
- Frank Matcham, the famous Victorian theatre designer (no artefacts, just information).
- Sir Samuel and Florence Baker, Victorian African explorers who discovered the White Nile together. We have a few artefacts associated with Sir Sam Baker - a pair of moccasins, an African spear, and a replica bust, plus images of the Baker's house and family and a book of watercolours created by one of his daughters.



The other Notable Newtonians could perhaps be illustrated on an interactive map which lights up to show the place of their birth or connection with the town, with a small paragraph of information.

## 6. *Clothing/costumes*

The museum has an interesting clothing/costume collection. This includes around 12 complete outfits (Victorian/Edwardian dresses, coats, skirts, blouses, capes), a collection of 1920s underwear, several christening robes, baby bonnets from 1700s, a corset, petticoats, gloves, aprons, stockings, hats, lace samples and handkerchiefs, children's shoes & boots, collars, silk belts, buckles, fans, bags, canes, boathooks, glove stretchers, etc. Our Victorian wallpaper samples, 1840s fashion plates and other prints/images could form the backdrop for this display to help illustrate the period.

The showcase should be sufficient in height for the Curator to walk in, and be one that can be divided up in different ways to be able to rotate the displays and to create interest.



## 7. *People and Places*

This area of the museum could provide an ideal opportunity for visitors to get 'hands-on' with objects (or replicas). We would like space for our dressing up box/rail so children can become immersed in the experience.

- (a) **Home Life:** plumbing (bathrooms, running water), electricity, heating, size of families, cooking, washday, shopping, transport, etc. We have a number of household goods from tin baths to knife cleaners, an Archimedes whisk and other kitchen equipment, recipe books, knitting patterns, sewing machine, mousetraps, door ornaments, hair crimpers, kettles, irons, family

trees, Victorian magazines & scrapbooks, family photo albums, clay pipes, hot water bottles, a chamber pot, bakelite radios, an early TV set, toys, doll's house, etc.

Perhaps this area could incorporate a kitchen cupboard to open with tins and packets inside that visitors can handle. In addition, we would also like to include information on development of the Almshouses, slum housing and housing provided for employees (e.g. railwaymen, clayworkers, etc.).



We have a small valentine card collection (5) which date from the 1700s-1800s. These could link in with a wedding theme, perhaps, as we have some other images of weddings and cake making at Madge Mellor's café.



(b) **Schools/education:** depending on the space available a school desk and blackboard could be used so that children can experience a past classroom feel. We also have some Victorian school books, school images, and 18<sup>th</sup> century silver medals from Mr Weatherdon's Academy. Historical development of the local schools and access to education could also be covered, including building of the Passmore Edwards Centre Library.



(c) **Employment and the Workhouse:** wages, local employers, hours, pay, conditions, different jobs for men, women & children, apprenticeships, etc.

*The Union Workhouse:* design & development, images and plans, conditions, local stories - "The Workhouse Scandal", "Dr Ley", "Kitty Jay", "Mr Manley's Memories"; the workhouse used to house German POWs in WWI.



(d) **Health and the Hospital:** health, disease & treatments; Dr Haydon's pioneering cancer treatment; development & support of Newton Abbot Hospital - 'Hospital Saturdays' raising money through carnivals; welfare system. We have Dr Mapleton's reports and ledgers logging diseases and recommendations for improvements to the infrastructure in the area, plus diaries from doctors in WW1 who later settled in Newton Abbot.

Dr Mapleton also collected moths, butterflies and other insects, and we have several drawers of specimens we would like to display. Perhaps we could display these alongside his medical reports set out as a working desk?

- (e) **Religion:** we have bibles dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (on loan) plus prayer books, plaques, Sunday school medals, a church plate, Methodist magazines, Methodist communion cups, dolls that were only allowed on a Sunday.



- (f) **Sport, entertainment, leisure & events**

*Leisure activities:* we have ice skates and excursion pamphlets; the Carnival is still a key event in the town - we have a 1970s carnival costume worn by one of the local 'characters'.

Other activities illustrated by photographs/images include

- royal visits from Charles I through to the present monarchy (we have the reverse impression on blotting paper of the signature of Queen Victoria);
- swimming in the Penn Inn pool and at Hackney marshes in the canal;
- rides on the model railway at Penn Inn;
- ice skating on Stover lake
- the racecourse (although the first horse races were recorded as starting on Milber Down in 1790).



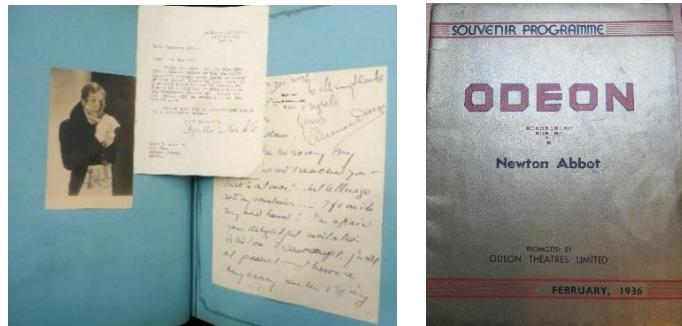
*Sport:* we have football boots, sports caps and a number of local sporting heroes e.g. Len Caldwell who played cricket for England. An outstanding event for the town was in 1935 when the New Zealand Rugby team chose Newton Abbot as their training headquarters for the third time, before touring the UK. They presented the town with a Maori ceremonial carved box and hammer.



*Theatre/cinema:*

- The Alexandra Theatre - used for performances and ice skating.

- Repertory Company: programmes, photographs and posters from the local Repertory Company, plus a scrap book of letters from famous play-writes (including Noel Coward, Terence Rattigan, Christopher Fry, etc.) giving permission to the local Repertory Company to perform plays in Newton Abbot.
- Silk programmes of performances by pupils of Weatherdon's Academy in the Globe Hotel.
- Cinema: the Odeon Cinema in Wolborough St and the Imperial Electric Cinema in Queen St - we have the opening programme of the Odeon cinema in the 1930s.



#### (g) Law & order

Crime, punishment and the prison in Union St; politics & voting; the general strike; civic unrest - Emmaline Pankhurst at the Union St riots in 1908; 18<sup>th</sup> century broadsheet "The dying behaviour of Thomas Campion". We have some wooden stocks, police wooden truncheons, petitions for prisoners and plenty of local stories.



### 8. Newton Abbot at War

- (a) WWI: we have a selection of diaries, 'dead man's pennies', shell case art, a Princess Mary's gift box, a bugle, postcards and silk cards from the trenches and certificates. We also have an autograph album belonging to a nurse with images and illustrations drawn by the men under her care during their recovery at Newton Abbot's Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospital.



The museum has researched and produced 40 'Micro histories' which tell the stories of the people of the town during the WWI, including building the War Memorial and how Seale Hayne was used as a shellshock hospital. All of these and more can be utilised within the new displays.

- (b) **WWII:** we have gas masks, wartime pamphlets, land army uniforms & badges, letters, an RAF jacket and flashes, an air raid siren, scouts log book of the WWII bombings in the area, shrapnel, a home guard training manual, magazines, war time recipes and ration books, clothing coupons, war time knitting patterns, US army helmet, ARP helmets, blackout bicycle lamps, board games given by the GIs, a collapsible canvas washbasin & stand, etc.



We would like to tell the stories through pictures of the bombing of the railway station, evacuees who came to Newton Abbot from the cities, people who worked in the local factories maintaining the wings of Spitfire aircraft, the land army girls, the local Dad's Army and VE celebrations. We have an oral archive collection which includes recordings of local people's memories of GIs in the town and the effect the war had on the community.

- (c) **Polish community:** a Polish re-settlement camp was established on the edge of the town after WWII and many current residents are descended from these refugees. The museum has a collection of colourful Polish costume and folk art sculptures associated with Stover Camp and we'd like to tell the story of the integration of these Polish families within the town.



- (d) **Falklands war:** we have a local Royal Marine's story of the Falklands war - he donated a large flag from brought back from the Falklands, a helmet and images.