

KMA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Hello to all our supporters! 2023 has been a very eventful year and will be ending on a high. I hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter which looks back at our achievements this year and our exciting plans for 2024.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

KMA **received a grant for £15,750** from North Yorkshire Council's Shared Prosperity Fund in September. As a result we have recruited Ruth McKew and her team from Headland Associates to undertake a feasibility study that will assess the optimum location for our long term permanent museum and evaluate the feasibility of our proposals and recommend the next steps to help us deliver our project.

HLF LOTTERY GRANT FUNDED COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Earlier in the year KMA received a £10,000 grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund for our Knaresborough Community Archaeology Project. The money has funded survey work in Birkham Woods and a geophysical survey of part of the former Trinitarian Priory precinct on Abbey Road. The results of all our archaeological survey work were unveiled at our COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY FESTIVAL that will take place at COGS during the weekends of October half term week. **Over 1,000 people** attended the event and because many people completed a questionnaire we found out what they felt worked particularly well at the festival and what sort of events would attract them in the future. Highlights of the event included: a newly commissioned model of Gates Hill camp (Iron Age fort), a video on the archaeology of the Gorge, a Living Historian dressed in Neolithic costume running a cave painting workshop for young children, James McKay's stunning paintings of Knaresborough through geological time and amazing artefacts including a Neolithic ceremonial hand axe and a medieval heart urn, both rare items. We intend to run a few archaeology workshops with groups like ORB to round off what has been a wonderful Community Archaeology Project. We also want to thank all the people who loaned objects for our display, local businesses who donated prizes for our annual raffle that raised over £1000 and our volunteers who worked so hard to make the event a success.

LEASE SIGNED FOR OUR NEW PREMISES

This week we have obtained the keys for our new premises at **12, High Street, Knaresborough HG5 0HW** (former Printzone premises) opposite the bus station. We are planning to decorate and refurbish the premises and open our new **Heritage Centre** in early 2024. The Centre will be an office base for KMA, and have a shop selling Knaresborough books, gifts and cards, an information centre for visitors and a multi-purpose gallery where we plan to have exhibitions, talks and workshops for children and adults. We are currently looking for tradespeople to undertake a small amount of building work and will be applying for grants to help with the cost of refurbishing and equipping the premises.

GRANT NEWS

We are very grateful to Harrogate Council who have given us a £1500 grant from the **Local Fund** for new display stands which will enable us to take our displays out to a range of community, education and residential venues in the coming year. We also received a much appreciated £850 grant from the **Waugh Trust (Knaresborough Rotarians)** for a range of equipment which will be used in our new premises. We couldn't do our work if it wasn't for support and funding from local organisations.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Here's a date for your diary. We are holding a Christmas Craft Fayre at our new premises (12 High Street) on **SATURDAY 2ND and SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER from 10am till 5pm (4pm on Sunday)** to raise much needed funds. We will have a tombola, and be selling Christmas spiced punch, Knaresborough Christmas cards and books, Christmas decorations and much more. We have a couple of **free tables left from £15 per day**. Please contact us by email for more information. We look forward to seeing you there.

FUTURE PLANS

KMA have applied to Historic England for a £10,000 grant for our next new and exciting project: "**The Voices of Knaresborough's Linen Weavers**". The project will comprise research, an oral history project, archaeological survey work and an exhibition which brings everything together. We hope to be interviewing people connected to the linen industry, particularly Waltons, which closed in 1972. Using first hand accounts we want to highlight the work and lives of linen workers (including children) from the 18th, 19th and 20th century. We are also planning to run monthly talks and workshops especially for children in our new premises, and start an archaeology themed walk and display in the new year.

DONATIONS

Three years ago our Crowdfunder raised £30,000 which we had hoped would go towards opening a museum at the Castle Girls' School. Unfortunately the lease was withdrawn and we have had to modify our plans. Our supporters have been asked to confirm that they are happy for us to use their donations towards the costs of running and equipping our new premises and all responses to date have been positive. Thank you to all who have replied- we can now look forward with positivity to 2024. If you want to help KMA preserve and showcase Knaresborough's wonderful history, archaeology and geology please consider making a donation online or by cheque to Knaresborough Museum Association. We can only succeed going forward with the support and backing of the local community. Thank you and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all.

Kathy Allday
Chair, Knaresborough Museum Association

PLEASE NOTE NEW Website: www.knaresboroughtownmuseum.org.uk.
AND NEW Contact email: info@knaresboroughtownmuseum.org.uk.