

# WHAT'S GOING ON



### **The Museum and Visitor Centre Changes**

CHS trustees took down the Museum displays before Christmas and the cases were taken to storage in Bradwell. Most of the artefacts were carefully boxed and put into the storage room in the centre whilst some of the larger items were taken to Bradwell. The bier was donated to the Coffin Works Museum in Birmingham where it forms a prominent part of a display of coffin furniture. The anvil and some blacksmith tools were taken to a good home for a donation to CHS funds. We now await the opportunity to get involved with the designers for the new interior layout of the centre.

### ***A note from Sue Beswick (Visitor Experience Development Manager PDNPA)***

PDNPA and the team at Castleton wish to thank CHS for all their support and cooperation throughout the process to date and the coordination of the removal of museum showcases and artefacts. We have finally arrived at the exciting phase where building works will begin and the visitor centre refurbishment will start to take shape. We look forward to our continued partnership working at the centre which will provide a compelling and inspirational experience for visitors, improved accessibility and outreach activities for families and education groups. We will work together on arrangements for the celebratory launch to take place in the summer, date to be confirmed.

### ***Notable Dates***

A tender was recently awarded to Space Design to start the building works on the 9 January with the programme being 17 weeks. This includes a contingency should adverse weather impact on progress. The interpretation and retail areas will be fitted out during April/May for the centre to reopen mid/end May. The tender for the café/kiosk provider will be advertised early January so that the successful tenderer can be consulted whilst building works are completed. During the works the Visitor Services & Merchandising team will relocate to the head office at Bakewell to allow the builder full access. The Castleton staff will be working at Edale during the winter months.

### **Archaeology Update**

#### ***What happened in 2016***

On the Spital field, two sections of the limestone foundations of a very substantial wall were excavated and the current thinking is that these could be part of a medieval chapel, located close to the burial area. In total, three corners of this structure have now been found. Within the "chapel" was a hearth containing a great deal of waste lead, likely to result from the melting of e.g. lead came (also found on the site) associated with dissolution of the hospital around 1550. Since the dig, dates have been obtained (thanks to Historic England) for four adults from the burial site, all of which fall within the documented dates of the hospital.

At the New Hall site, splendid progress was made. The south wall of a cross wing of the Hall was positively identified. The foundations of a doorway and the corner of the building were also found. Amongst the other finds were decorative plasterwork, relatively modern pottery, an inkwell and a jeton which was used in calculating or in gaming, produced between 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our jeton had a galleon stamp on one side and three fleur-de-lys on the other, and is about the same size as an old penny.

Amongst the volunteers to the hospital site on Spital Field were Castleton School. They join in every year and this time helped out with some enthusiastic trowelling. The children are always really good at spotting very small artefacts. The Young Archaeologists Club from Sheffield also volunteered for the day. Other visitors included the Hunter Society, Whaley Bridge History Group and DAAC (Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee).

The work of analysing the finds and interpreting the outcome of the dig now has to continue, in particular including pottery analysis. Thanks once again to all those who have helped throughout the dig, including the volunteers without whose hard work little would be accomplished, and the landowners and tenants of Castleton who have generously granted access.

# Castleton Historical Society

## **2017 Archaeology**

On the Spital Field the plan is to try and find the remaining corner of the “chapel” building, and what would be really nice is some good dating evidence to go with it. New Hall will also be an important focus, not least because it’s possible to predict where to dig due to the existence of a number of pictures and a photo of the hall. As in previous years there may also be some work at other sites in the village. All these plans, as always, depend on our obtaining permissions.

The plan is to dig between 8 May to 2 June. All volunteers are welcome - please register your interest with Angela Darlington [amstafford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amstafford@hotmail.co.uk) (01433620281).

## **Newspaper Archive Research**

Kay continues to research and write about Castleton and its Old Inhabitants in both the Peveril Post and for our CHS website. Using the parish registers, Newspaper Archive and many other original documents the stories reflect village life as it was many years ago. Research topics this year may include the Winnats Pass Murders of the 1700s, families such as the Halls, Royses and Hows, and the Reverend Edward Bagshaw our vicar during the 1700s.



## **Website Update**

During the summer, the company hosting our website informed us that it would be ceasing operation in December 2016. This meant that we had to look for a new platform for the website rather quickly but it also gave us the opportunity to rethink what we wanted in terms of style and layout. After transferring the content from the old website to a new one and adding new material we were able to launch the new site in early December and maintain an almost continuous online presence. The new design is easier to navigate and adapts easily to viewing on mobile or tablet devices as well as computers & laptops. There are frequent links to the CHS Blog for more details of the Society’s activities. Unfortunately it has not been possible to include the Landscape Trail audio files because they are not compatible with the new format. You can find the new website at the original address <[www.castletonhistorical.co.uk](http://www.castletonhistorical.co.uk)>. We hope that you will enjoy visiting the website and welcome your feedback.

**The Trustees wish to thank Val Burgess for her sterling efforts on the new web site.**

## **Acquisitions**

Very interesting was the Bowyer football cup donated by Alan Brown. It was given from Shoeburyness evacuees in recognition of hospitality they received from Castleton. By coincidence their experience (too long to include here but a lovely read) can be read on the BBC WW2 People’s War website.

## **Talks and members nights in 2016**

Another very good year for talks with wide ranging topics and some excellent speakers. Our member’s night at Treak Cliff Cavern was particularly poignant because of the sad loss of Peter our chairman. It was however a splendid evening in his memory and we thank Vicky and Kay for hosting it at a very difficult time for the family.

## **Membership**

Membership numbers increased by five in 2016, bringing the total to 57. We would love to see some younger people join up – it’s free to under 25 yr. olds and in full time education, spread the word please.

## **Feedback**

If you have any suggestions or questions please contact one of the Trustees details on the Programme or you can email [secretary@castletonhistorical.co.uk](mailto:secretary@castletonhistorical.co.uk).

If you fancy helping out with the reinstatement of the museum, please let us know.

## **AGM 19 January 2017**