

What's going on



The Museum

The Museum re-opened in August with refreshed displays installed. New labelling and numbering has now been completed, although some additional interpretation will follow during 2018.

The opportunity was taken to look again at the accessioning process and this has involved in checking all the museum's artefacts and ensuring traceable documentation for each piece. This has been a big job.

Our plans for the coming year include completing the interpretation, providing topics to the Peak Park for inclusion in the Gesture Wall and looking at the possibility of producing DVDs covering local heritage for the projection screen. We also want to obtain grant funding for the refurbishment of a showcase to take the Blue John bowl and for document reading cases that could sit below the time line providing the opportunity of a changing display. As 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War we also think it appropriate to have another related display.

We also need to complete the museum accreditation process which has already begun and which will involve an inspection visit in the new year.

Monitoring feedback from museum visitors is very important to inform future improvements, so we have installed a combined feedback and donations box.

Future aims include encouraging more volunteer involvement in maintaining the displays and the possibility of providing stewards to help and inform visitors.

Archaeology

Achievements of 2017

At the hospital site substantial foundations of what is believed to be the medieval hospital chapel were revealed (see aerial photo) and crucially, a few artefacts were found in context with these including metal objects and pottery, all of which should allow dating of the walls.

At New Hall, last year's trench was extended into what is possibly the oldest wing of the house. Many fragments of ornate plasterwork have been found during the excavations, and these will be discussed in one of our 2018 talks by expert David Bostwick.



Castleton Historical Society

We are happy to report that Derbyshire Archaeological Society have awarded a grant of £1000 to CHS, towards pottery analysis from the recent digs.

Aims for 2018

The 2018 dig will be in July rather than in May (as in recent years), and the work-force will be mainly volunteer (rather than a lot of students from Sheffield University). Always depending on obtaining local permissions, the first priority will be to investigate the area to the west and south of the chapel walls; human remains were found there last year, and we'll be looking for evidence of further buildings. If time and the number of volunteers allows, investigations of the New Hall site will continue.

There is currently a backlog of analysis from the digs including four years of pottery samples, which are now with Chris Cumberpatch (our pot expert) awaiting his attention. Writing up is the next step for the hospital project, and for that, we have a slot reserved in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

Website and Blog

To keep up to date.... click on the **'Follow'** button at the bottom right hand corner of the Blog & the **'Follow Castleton Historical Society'** on the website. You will then get updates automatically sent to your email.

Buxton Museum

CHS has close links with Buxton Museum. Ros Westwood (Derbyshire Museums Manager) is our museum mentor, Buxton curates some Castleton objects (e.g. from past digs) and we loan items from them. We have recently renewed a loan agreement for items from the Douglas collection (on display). In addition, we welcomed their advice on new labelling and number formats for the display cases.

We are also now working with them on their "Wonders of the Peak" website (<https://www.pocketwonders.co.uk/>), which presents e.g. people, artefacts, and historic landmarks with background information to computers or mobile phones. Using an app, it is possible to plan a walk taking in a number of these items or places. CHS plans to add information on Castleton "wonders" which will become a resource for anyone living in or visiting the village.

Talks and visits

We had some excellent talks in 2017 culminating with one on the Cotton Mill which drew the crowds and received a lot of good reviews. In July Colin took some of us on an informative and enjoyable guided walk around Beauchief Abbey grounds on a beautiful evening.

In 2018 we have a similarly diverse programme beginning with Merv Lewis (a very popular speaker in 2017) talking about the state of the country at the end of WW1, and ending with a talk of very specific local interest with new research on the Garland ceremony.

There's a lot going on and if you want to get involved, speak to a Trustee.