

We had a successful A.G.M. on  
Monday 19th June 2017  
Thankyou to all who attended.

### **A message from our President.**

Hi, newsletter time again. Must say the weeks fly by so quickly and everyone seems so busy. We at the Museum have many projects going and would appreciate some help with the family history, so if there is anyone out there with computer skills and interest we would value your time on a Monday. It is exciting to see what progress has been made upgrading our displays and having so many visitors each week is amazing. Many thanks to Sandra and Ray for their dedication and the many hours they spend at the Museum and working from home. Thanks Megan for your many skills and support and Shirley for continuing the scrap books when her health allows. Thanks to the loyal few who support the lending library and for Glen Webster distributing books from the M.D.L. Our subscription of \$10 a year are due once again and this helps out with our running costs, if you are not already a member of the museum please step up and join. Thank you to those who have already paid. Thanks again must go to the kind ladies in the Post Shop who open and close the Museum every week day.

Kind Regards to you all and keep warm this winter.  
Gwenda.

### **A message from Sandra**

We have continued in the last 6 months to add some of the interesting photos that the museum has in its archives to our display areas. The newest addition being the large picture in the front window. Our aim was to give the idea that the viewer was looking down the High Street, and we do hope you feel we have achieved this. It takes a lot of time and effort to get the pictures to fit the area, and then as we all know, one job always makes another, and fitting the picture into the window was another labour of love, but we

feel the end result has been well worth it.

Our next project is to enlarge an old Renwick map and attach it to the huge area on the wall on the left as you walk into the museum. We were thrilled that Marlborough Museum donated copies of 2 fantastic vintage maps of the layout of Renwicktown streets in 1858 and 1870's, and it is one of these that we are working on at the moment.

We are delighted that the Marlborough Council donated some money towards the repainting of the museum, and that is going to be another project in the very near future and we are thankful to be able to pay for the services of a painter and decorator to complete this for us.

We recently realised that the bullocks and dray display has been displayed on the outside of the museum for 50 years this year. It is looking a bit weather beaten and so it is our aim to get it tidied up as soon as possible. It is a big job, as the whole thing is going to have to be lifted up so as to stop it being in contact with soil, which has caused a lot of decay. We love a challenge!

### **A message from Ray**

2016-17 has been a great year for the museum with income from donations and grants amounting to over \$17,000 dollars. Funds were given a boost by an enjoyable Devonshire tea and talk day during heritage month, the Scouts Jamboree and of course the prize money for winning the Trustpower Heritage award.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the placing of the bullock cart and sawyers at the front of the museum by Herbert Watson and Norm Brayshaw and we will be having a bit of a celebration during heritage month in November to mark the occasion. Sadly the sawyers have become a little unstable in their old age and they will shortly be taken down to be repaired and will find a new home in the museum gardens at the rear of the property. We think the iconic bullocks are probably good for another 50 years though the cart will need a bit of

renovation to keep it going.

This year also saw another milestone with the departure of the Watson family from next door. Over the years the Watson family have contributed a great deal to the museum including a number of important artefacts and we wish them well in their much deserved retirement. With the Watsons leaving, it has prompted us to have a rethink about the whole site which was, after all, "donated to the Renwick Community for a museum and library". With this in mind, we have come up with the idea of a Renwick Heritage Centre. The centre would provide disabled parking, a new workroom/meeting room complete with kitchen and a heritage garden at the rear with entertainment area. This area could be used for heritage events, concerts and even heritage themed weddings.

Looks like we could be in for exciting times ahead so watch this space!



## **A message from Megan**

I continue to catalogue new donations to the Renwick Museum. We have seen Paul and Pat Watson move into Blenheim leaving behind a large donation of various photographs, archives and artefacts, for which we are very grateful.

The Marlborough Museum has donated copies of two early Renwick maps, 1858 and the 1870s. These are high quality copies that will last and be able to withstand use by researchers.

In the last 12 months we have also received donations on Northbank and Te Rou from Frances Powell, and several items to add to our displays such as 2 baby dolls and most exciting an original Bary family high chair.

We still continue to collect education books for the School Journal Collections.

## **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

If you have a keen interest in the history of Renwick please consider becoming a volunteer. At the moment we open on a Monday but we are flexible about this if Monday is a difficult day for you. We need help with every aspect of the museum from housekeeping through to cataloguing. Please email us if you are interested in joining our small and happy team.



### **IN SYMPATHY.**

We would like to extend our sympathy to all our friends who have lost loved ones over the past year.

## **The Museum**

**This museum is run entirely by volunteers. We rely solely on grants and donation to keep the museum running on a day to day level as well as to upgrade our displays.**

### **Services available at the museum**

**LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY  
GENERAL LOCAL HISTORY  
ARCHIVES  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
PUBLIC LENDING LIBRARY**

**Renwick Museum  
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## **Renwick Museum and Watson Memorial Library**



## **Mid Year Newsletter 2017**

