

Old House Museum Updates

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Bringing you the latest news from B.D.H.S and the Museum.

Sincerely trust you are well and keeping safe.

Art Council Project News.

The techy part of our project is almost finished. The museum now boasts new VoIP telephones (voice over internet phones) and Wi-Fi boosters in most rooms. Internet speeds are greatly improved for our staff and volunteers. Visitors will be able to access the internet in order to listen to the QR Codes and post a few pics onto social media. A lesser strength of internet and a separate line of use which does not compromise our own computers security.

QR Code recordings have been completed and currently being edited. We feel this will enhance the visitor experience to the Old House. The next task is to upload these recordings to our new website which is also receiving a lot of technical support thanks to Lesley Ayers, Duncan and Joyce Janes.

The Covid film interviews are almost complete with just a couple still to film which are Lady Manners School and Bakewell Town Hall. Editing the films will be a time consuming job and this is currently underway.

Thank you for sending in your Covid images. These will feature on the website along with the films.



LOCKDOWN by George Challenger

The comparison with the 1665 lockdown at Eyam reminds me of how the Old House Museum was used in November 2001 for filming for a documentary for Channel 4.

They wanted a place where the two priests, Mompesson and Stanley, could be shown planning for Eyam residents to self isolate. A fire was lit in the parlour fireplace (and the smell of woodsmoke persisted after the museum re-opened in spring)..

I assumed that the filming would be over soon but it was still going on when bellringing practise started at 7.30. I went up the tower to ask for it to be stopped for a while. But it was 11pm before the film crew left.

The documentary followed the research of Dr Stephen O'Brien who showed that some descendants of the survivors at Eyam had a genetic mutation called Delta 32 which gives immunity also from HIV. Natural selection made it more common in the population during the Black Death.

There has also been much research on other outbreaks of the plague, notably the Black Death which came to Europe in 1347. Excavation of about 600 skeletons from the burial pit at East Smithfield revealed that the bacterium which caused it had similar DNA to that causing more recent outbreaks.

Wikipedia distinguishes between bubonic plague (which gave rise to the 'ring of roses' and pneumonic plague which rapidly transmits between humans (similar to the virus Corvid 19) rather than via rats and fleas:

A study of a 1665 outbreak of [plague in the village of Eyam](#) in England's Derbyshire Dales—which isolated itself during the outbreak, facilitating modern study—found that three-quarters of cases are likely to have been due to human-to-human transmission, especially within families, a much bigger proportion than previously thought.

Yersinia pestis circulates in animal reservoirs, particularly in rodents The natural foci of plague are situated in a broad belt in the tropical and sub-tropical latitudes and the warmer parts of the temperate latitudes around the globe, between the parallels 55 degrees North and 40 degrees South. Contrary to popular belief, rats did not directly start the spread of the bubonic plague. It is mainly a disease in the fleas ([Xenopsylla cheopis](#)) that infested the rats, making the rats themselves the first victims of the plague. Rodent-borne infection in a human occurs when a person is bitten by a flea that has been infected by biting a rodent that itself has been infected by the bite of a flea carrying the disease. The bacteria multiply inside the flea, sticking together to form a plug that blocks its stomach and causes it to starve. The flea then bites a host and continues to feed, even though it cannot quell its hunger, and consequently, the flea vomits blood tainted with the bacteria back into the bite wound. The bubonic plague bacterium then infects a new person and the flea eventually dies from starvation. Serious outbreaks of plague are usually started by other disease outbreaks in rodents or a rise in the rodent population.

See Eyam Plague 1665-6 by John Clifford who gave a talk to the Society in 2006.

Black History Month - Frederick Douglass and his visit to Bakewell in 1846 by Nicky Crewe

This is Black History Month. Heritage attractions, museums and galleries all over the world are reassessing their historic links with the slave trade in the light of the Black Lives Matter campaign.

A few days ago a friend and former Chatsworth colleague got in touch to ask me if I had seen an article in August's edition of the BBC's History magazine.

The title of the article is *The black abolitionists who shocked Victorian Britain*.

The author, Hannah-Rose Murray, has also written a book, **Advocates of Freedom** (CUP) and runs a website dedicated to Frederick Douglass, frederickdouglassinbritain.com.

To my friend's surprise and mine, it was mentioned that Frederick Douglass had given a talk in Bakewell in 1846. It had never occurred to me that Bakewell might have had a part to play in the anti-slavery movement of the mid nineteenth century.

My friend also tracked down information about a recent piece of street art in Sheffield, a mural by Katy Sett, painted on the wall of the Cutlery works on Neepsend Lane. The mural depicts the meeting of Mary Ann Rawson of Wincobank Hall with Frederick Douglass when he came to give a talk in Sheffield.

Mary Ann Rawson, nee Read, came from a family of philanthropists and social activists. Widowed after only two years of marriage, she devoted the rest of her life to the causes she believed in. She took the Temperance Pledge in 1839, founded a teacher training college in Jamaica, established a day school in Wincobank, and her legacy means that the non-denominational Upper Wincobank Chapel still exists today. She was involved in the Sheffield Female Anti-Slavery Society and the Sheffield Ladies Association for the Universal Abolition of Slavery. In 1840 she attended the International Convention for the Universal Abolition of Slavery. Still campaigning through the 1870s, she died in 1887 and is buried at the Zion Chapel in Attercliffe.

What a remarkable woman!

Frederick Douglass came to speak to an audience in Sheffield in 1846, and met Mary Ann Rawson at Wincobank Hall. He was on a tour of the British Isles and Ireland from 1845 to 1847. There may well have been connections to Bakewell in the Rawson or Read families.

Freed and escaped slaves came to the United Kingdom to raise awareness of the reality and evils of slavery. Though slavery had been abolished in the colonies by 1833, the apprenticeship system that was introduced after this date kept workers in bondage for another seven years. As we know, the Southern States of America hung on to slavery for much longer.

Frederick Douglass had escaped in 1838 and was the national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York.

Lecture tours were organised by sympathetic contacts in this country, and were an opportunity to fund raise as well as inform. There's a transcript of his speech at an anti-slavery meeting in Sheffield available online on the Documenting the American South website. It took place on September 11th 1846 and it is harrowing reading, not least because he is highlighting the hypocrisy of slave owners who claim to be devout Christians.

Frederick Douglass also wrote books and pamphlets about his life and campaigning.

It would be great to find out more about his visit to Bakewell; where he spoke, who hosted and arranged his visit, and what response he got.

However there was an anti-slavery movement in Bakewell before he gave his lecture. Thanks to my friend's research, she has also discovered a petition, now in the Derbyshire Record Office. It's a petition against slavery by the people of Bakewell from 1830, so before the 1833 act. There's no donor information unfortunately.

There's also another link to Bakewell in the Boston Public Library's anti-slavery collection. It's a letter from Esther Sturge (1783-1864) to Maria Weston Chapman, written in Bakewell. Esther Sturge was from a prominent Quaker family who were heavily involved in abolition. It's dated 15-08-1854 and she must have been visiting Quaker friends in Bakewell. She lived in Kent and the 1851 census gives her companion as a certain

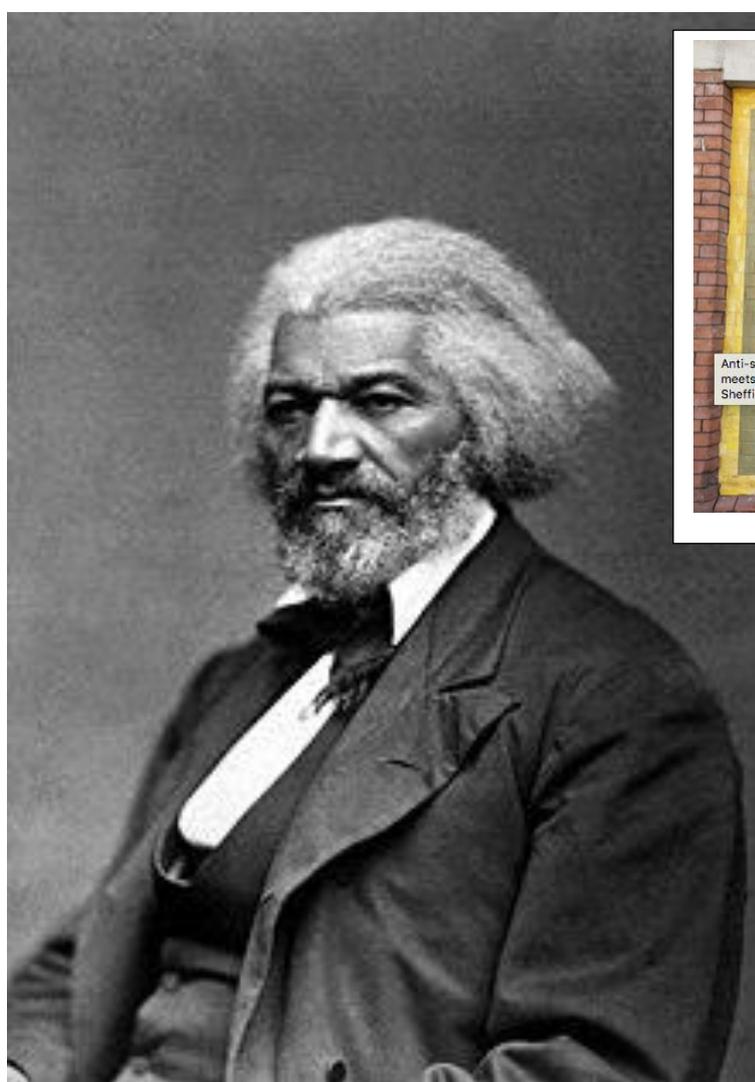
Miss Ann Elizabeth Fry. Perhaps she joined her on the visit!

It's amazing what the internet can help uncover.

I wonder if any Society members or volunteers at the Museum have ever come across this aspect of Bakewell's past. My friend has written to Hannah-Rose Murray to see if she can get further information, and I will keep you posted if she replies.

I know the Strutts in Belper took an anti-slavery stance. Perhaps the Arkwrights in Bakewell did the same. By the 1860s there were huge implications for the cotton spinning and weaving industries in the North and Midlands with the onset of the American Civil War.

Frederick Douglass - Wikipedia



More to come from Nicky on Bakewell's anti-slavery links in future Updates.

Opening the museum in 2020

After months of planning for just this event we tentatively opened the museum doors on Wednesday September the 9th.

We are pleased to have been fully supported with training from Museum Development East Midlands on how to keep our visitors and volunteers safe, help with following government guidelines and a substantial grant for PPE equipment to benefit us all. We now have a one way route in place, hand gel stations throughout the building, sneeze screens on reception, very creative route arrows (thankyou David Wilbur) and a mountain of masks, gloves, cleaning sprays, aprons and visors.



We are currently taking telephone bookings and allowing entry for up to 6 people every 15 minutes. This routine is working very well and the majority of visitors do book. We can however slot in people who are passing and this is filling up the open times very nicely whilst avoiding overcrowding.

Our visitors have been very supportive and appreciative of the efforts involved in opening our doors and in the last 4 weeks we have welcomed in 278 people.



We gratefully thank our cleaning teams who are helping out on Tuesday mornings and of course the volunteers who clean during the open sessions.

Some of our vols take this cleaning to another level - see pic below which gained 2,500 likes on Facebook!



All of this activity I feel has helped us regain a little bit of normality.

We do not let our guard down however and your health and safety is a priority.

Visitors can now scan a QR code for the NHS test and trace when they enter the building and we are also keeping paper records.

We sincerely hope to welcome more of you back sometime in the future.

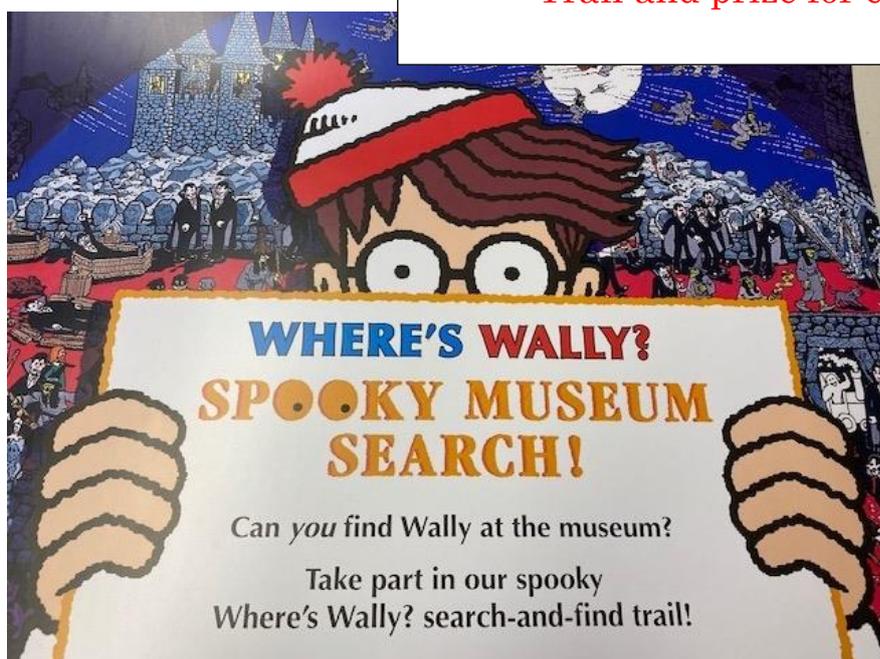
Please do pass on the word about the event below.

**Where's Wally? - Spooky Museum Search from
Wed 28th - Sat 31st Oct - 10.30 am - 4pm.**

**come along and search our dark corners to find 8
Wally's hidden around the building.**

**Wally pack supplied by Kids inn Museum and
Walker Books.**

Trail and prize for children of all ages.



The Joys of Internet Meeting by Joyce Janes

Hello everybody, I'm here for early bar
Is anyone there? I can't see where you are

None of us can hear you Ann, your signals not too good
It was ok yesterday, isn't working as it should?

Oh look, Kate's sitting to one side, we can only see half her face
I'm all there on my picture. It must be you that's out of place

Francis switch your on, it's all you need to do
Oh, has it got a camera? She hasn't got a clue

Of course it's got a camera, dope, how else would we see you
I've no idea how to work this thing. That's pretty obvious too

Where Grace? She promised she'd be here, she never is on time
I know I'm late but here at last, at least I've got my wine

Who is that down there? I see the top of a head
Kate, why are you sitting on the floor, it looks like you're in bed

Sally's here, where've you been? Quiet, cos you lot make such din
For twenty minutes, not a sound? It's hard to get a word in

My signal keep on fading. I've been told it's very weak
With all the rambling you lot do, I never get chance to speak

I've got a message. Pat I think. Can someone let her in?
I'm not sure how to do it. Hi there, where've you been

I rushed and went on Zoom, even tried Whereby too,
so many different sites to use, I had trouble finding you

You're right, there's loads of meetings, a different group each night
I even gate-crashed someone else it gave them quite a fright

So, are we sitting comfortably? Then shall we all begin...
Oh no, where are you Kate? Your pictures really dim

There's a delay, it must be you, you're coming through disjointed
Don't pick on me it's not my fault, I'm really disappointed

It's not very flattering is it, this thing? I look ninety, if I look a day
Just see my neck, all wrinkles and skin. Make it away

It's how you sit that makes you look old, move the camera to a higher angle

A drink might help, or have less light, or maybe try a candle

I'm getting lots of feedback. It could be your microphone
I must be blessed as I hear you all, but I've never been one to moan

Hello girls, sorry I'm late it wouldn't let me in
Look at you all into wine I've opted for double gin

Why on earth is Sue waving her arms. It looks like her sound's switched off
Turn your microphone on, yes, on. Where? It's a button at the top

Well that explains why I get ignored and everyone's talking over me
Glynis your sound is terrible. At least she can actually see.

Whose head is that I can just see the top? That one must be Jan,
We've told her to move her computer, but she doesn't think she can

Isn't it lovely this getting together, it always is such a treat
I'm missing you all so very much, can't wait till we really can meet

Can't wait for the tiny child cuddles, a kiss and a hug mean so much
It's family I miss more than anything, the feel and the smell and the touch

Until this Covid is properly gone, meeting's not safe for the future
A vaccine will come you wait and see, till then we'll party on computer

I can't wait for things to be normal, just imagine what that really means
We'll not be wearing these stupid masks and be able to meet in the Queens

Go for coffee and cake and a natter. Do you honestly think that we will?
I don't want to spend the rest of my life, standing two metres apart at a till

I've got to go, bye for now. But we've only just begun!
I'm leaving too, I'll see you next week. oh, is it something that I've done?

We might as well stop if everyone's going, so long until our next call
Time's almost done in any case, so goodbye now and love to you all

I don't know how, but I'm back again. I think I am going to burst
There's a button for you to exit, you need to press that first

Help, I'm all alone here, now that the rest have gone
No, I'm still here as well, you're not the only one

You just need to press the button, that's what you have to do
It'd better let me go soon, I'm desperate to go to th....

Introducing a new volunteer



Vicky is 18 and lives in Hasland, Chesterfield. Vicky is studying 'Technical Events' at Confetti College, Nottingham. Course work covers sound and lighting for live events.

Vicky will be with us once a week and will help out with social media posts and research.

Interests are art, painting and writing. Very techy and creative, Vicky is a real asset to our small marketing team.

Thank you for joining us

Message from our Chairman Stephen Coates

We have been absolutely delighted by the public's response to want to visit the Old House since we managed to open on four days per week beginning on 9th September. Without exception our visitors have been totally committed to respecting and observing the safe systems that we devised and put in place to enable us to provide a welcoming, interesting and safe place to visit as part of a day out in Bakewell. Despite all the limitations that we continue to face, our visitor numbers have compared very favourably with those we would have welcomed under normal circumstances and to date total more than 267! Of course this also means that as well as offering a great visitor experience we have begun to generate much-needed income for the first time since we closed last November!

All this has been possible only because of the continued and unstinting support of those established volunteers who felt confident about resuming volunteering. Thank you to everyone who has generously given time to undertake the cleaning and preparation of the House prior to opening, for working on the desk to meet and greet our visitors when we did open and for performing all those additional cleaning and sanitising duties that ensure everybody's experience will be a safe one. Of course we realise and wholeheartedly respect that not everyone yet feels safe to resume a place on the rota and we greatly look forward to welcoming you back as soon as you feel comfortable to do so.

Finally, thank you Anita for your unstinting enthusiasm over the past six difficult months, navigating regulatory and museum sector requirements to put us in the best position to re-open the House safely; the Trustees recognise it has been a major project to evaluate and procure all necessary personal protective equipment to enable us to re-open. Amongst other things, thanks also for continuing to produce the News Update to help us all keep in touch with developments and with one another.

Stephen Coates

Thank you to all our contributors for this month's 'Updates'.
Stay safe everyone and do keep in touch. *Anita*

