



The Tamar Protection Society

Newsletter – Spring 2017

From The Chair – Brigette Dixon

Welcome to the Spring newsletter of the Society that has the heart of the Tamar foremost in its mind.

Having recently taken over as Chair of the TPS I would like to say a hearty thank you to the Board and volunteers who continue to keep the TPS afloat. It is only with their endeavour, suggestions and guidance that we are able to go forward to 2017 which I am sure will be a great season for us, with Elliott's looking her best, and hopefully with all the work finished at the cottage.

In September we were honoured with a visit to the cottage from HRH the Duchess of Gloucester. The Duchess was received by Sarah Page, met volunteers, and was given a tour of the garden by Sandra, who explained how this once wilderness has blossomed into such a beautiful Elizabethan garden. The Duchess also asked her Lady in Waiting to make a note about one particular plant which she was interested in.

Although our season finished in September we did enjoy 2 events in December. Elliott's opened on 3rd for Saltash Lights Up when more than 200 visitors enjoyed the customary hot mulled wine and Christmas biscuits. The following day we held an afternoon of music and Christmas Carols. Rachael led the singing and her friends played the music to the delight of all present. Well done all those who made these events such a success.

I must give mention to **OUR THREE MUSKETEERS** - The motto "All for One and One for all", although to the best of my knowledge they didn't wear tights or a glamorous uniform or even involve themselves in any sword fights, certainly applied to the three stalwarts of the TPS who undertook the task of painting the front of Elliotts despite the onset of winter and some very cold and wet late Autumn days. One of our musketeers even recreated the shop signage above the front windows to how it originally looked in old photographs. **WELL DONE TO YOU ALL.** Onward and Upward.

Finally, we wish to put on record our thanks to Howton Solar Farm who gave us grants for kitchen renovation, garden furniture, pots for the knot garden, costumes, and advertising. Their

representatives will be visiting Mary Newmans Cottage on Tuesday 28th Feb to see how their grant monies were used. We are confident they will feel their donations well spent.

2016 – Some More Highlights

Virginia House members Visit.

Twenty six Members of Virginia House Carers Group (Plymouth) visited Mary Newmans cottage on 7th July 2016. This is what they said:

"We all had a good time and thought how interesting the visit was. Unfortunately due to the steepness of the hill not all could go up to Elliott's Store, however the ones who could go up found it very, very interesting. The garden was lovely and the information given about the cottage itself was also very interesting. The volunteers were very helpful and the cream tea and cakes were enjoyed by all. Well done to you and all your volunteers for making this cottage so enjoyable for all to visit, without your dedication this would not be possible."

Beavers Scouts 2nd Saltash Riverbank and Maple Colonies

Beavers Scouts from the above were so enthralled at what they saw during their visit to Elliotts that they decided to raise some money as a thank you gift, and subsequently donated £94.35 towards the upkeep of this unique property. We thank you for your determination to "Do your best", a fundamental part of their Scout promise.

Wine Tasting. A Multisensory Experience at Mary Newman's Cottage – By Rebecca Pearce

How easily can we be duped into believing the taste of a rose wine is so much worse than a good quality white wine, when really it is the same white wine with a little added food colouring? That's the sort of mind-bending activity that has been going on at Mary Newman's Cottage recently as it was chosen as a venue for Plymouth University's recent Off the Lip event programme incorporating the neuroscience-based Manufactory; a series of workshops designed to challenge the senses and open up the world of cognitive innovation, showing us how playing tricks with our senses is easy to do, once you understand a little more about how you listen, see, smell and taste the world, and how

even very small manipulations to your environment can change your perception and thereby what you think you can smell, taste, hear, or see. Take the idea of a blind tasting literally, cover your eyes and introduce an artificial soundscape, and the wine tastes different again. Play classical music and what you can taste is infinitely better, even though it is actually, just the same as before. This trick works for chocolate too apparently.

When Brussels-based Research Scientist, Felipe Reinoso Carvalho requested a suitably dark, cool, and atmospheric venue for his scientific outreach project, the Tamar Protection Society was only too happy to suggest Mary Newman's cottage as the perfect venue for up to twenty lucky participants to experience first-hand, the results of several years' research into the link between taste and olfactory. One participant was overheard saying that it was the best night out in Saltash she'd ever had. Was it all just an illusion? Was the wine really water? We'll never know....

Elliotts Store – by Mike Couch

Another year has passed, so, following on from the success of previous events at Elliotts Store, the exhibition for 2017 will be of work by local artist Tina Tian, whose name you may recall from art classes at Ashtorre and exhibitions in various places locally. Her work is something to be believed, fantastic in fact and across the board, she even did the large open fireplace back drop to Elliotts Christmas window display. By putting on these exhibitions we hope to increase our footfall and much needed revenue helping to keep our local volunteer run time warp shop open.

MARY NEWMAN'S COTTAGE – by Brigette Dixon

Before the end of March, a major renovation to the cottage made possible by a generous grant from County Environmental Trust, to whom we are much indebted, needs to be completed ready for our reopening in April. Once complete, we will set about painting both the exterior and interior of the cottage. We are looking for volunteers to lend a hand with this work so if you feel able to give up a few hours of your time, we would love to hear from you. Contact Brigette on 01579 384381.

Room Hire

Don't forget, our Board Room, complete with modern presentation equipment is available at modest cost for your event. Contact details below.

Pursuit of Accreditation – by Gerry Sweet

The team at Elliott's continues the process of applying for the store to become an Accredited Museum. This is a scheme run by the Arts Council and it involves fulfilling a quite demanding set of nationally agreed standards. We are at the stage whereby we are completing an online submission form, having previously developed a series of required policies and procedures. When, and if, we become accredited, new funding streams and training opportunities will become available. More importantly, the process will enable us to assess our current performance, as well as support the museum in offering improved services and enhanced visitor experiences.

Archiving - by Gerry Sweet

The archiving group at Elliott's continues to catalogue the items in our collection. Among the many advantages of collating our collection onto MODES [a specialist software package for museums] is the fact that we are at last beginning to appreciate what we have and, more importantly, where it can be found. The group is at present wading through a large collection of paper, much of which consists of invoices and order forms connected with the shop. However, occasionally a gem is unearthed. Last week we found a booklet entitled "First Aid for Gas Casualties" dated 1938. We also located amongst the collection of Saltash and District Journals, an article written by Frank Elliott for the paper referring to the "Grannie's Tree" of Saltash, published in 1973. Has anyone else heard about this intriguing tree.

Planned Events for 2017

To save space here for news, we will post these on Facebook and our web site so do please keep checking.

Other Contact Details

Chair – Brigette Dixon: Telephone 01579 384381

Book a Property Visit or Meeting Room - Maggie: Telephone 01752 842132

Membership Enquiries and Education Liaison - Gerry Sweet: Telephone 01752 848141

Outreach Talks and Presentations - Chris Turner email info@tamarprotectionsociety.org.uk