



WHC News

The latest Wirksworth Heritage Centre news, events and announcements



In This Issue

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Inspired Local Speaker Returns to WHC

Thank You - For Supporting Local Traders

Farewell to Woolly

New Staff Join the Team

New Special Exhibition

Wild Roots Creative

Activities and Events...

31 St. John Street

Wirksworth

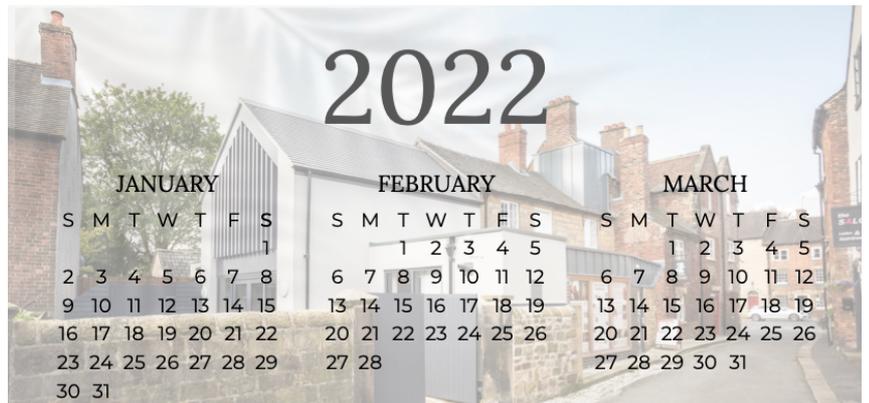
Derbyshire

DE4 4DS

01629 707000

info@wirksworthheritagecentre.org

www.wirksworthheritage.co.uk

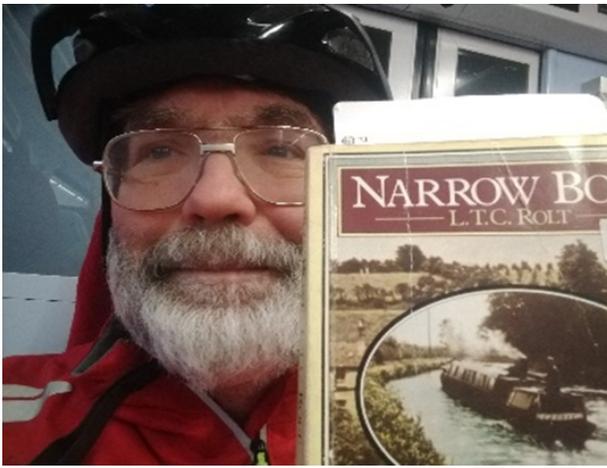


Happy New Year!

Happy New Year, and welcome back!

We are kicking off the New Year with a new line up of monthly heritage talks, beginning with returning local speaker Alastair Clark - you can read more about this on page 2. Other talks include 'Metal Detecting For History' for the history buffs, 'Food and Drink in Tudor and Stuart Derbyshire', for the foodies and location specific talks on the Alms houses in Wirksworth, Bolsover Castle and the renovation of Aqueduct Cottage on Cromford Canal.

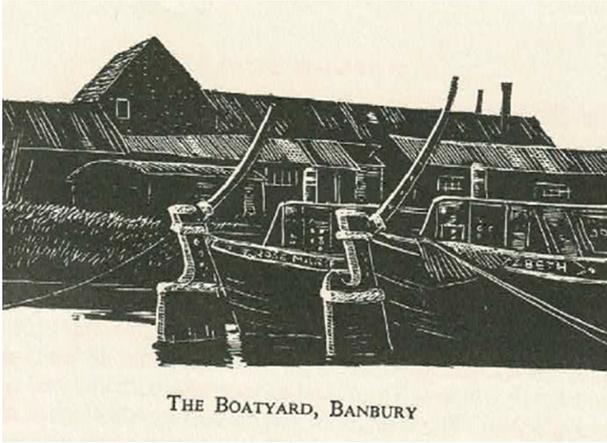
We also invite you back to sample our new menu in Webster's Cafe and check out more new products in our shop. If that wasn't enough we also have a new exhibition in our museum and plenty of new activities and events. Check out our social media and website for the latest updates.



Above: Alastair proudly shows the book that inspired his trip.

Inspired Local Speaker Returns with New Talk At The Heritage Centre

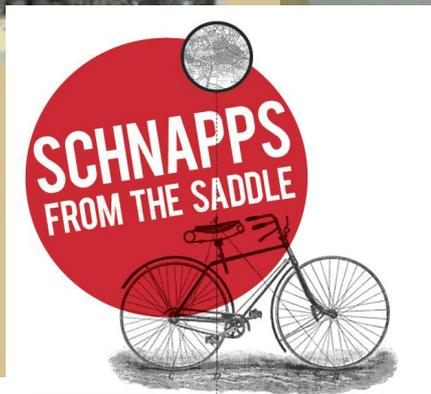
Here at WHC we are proud to see the return of a past speaker with a new talk detailing his experience recreating the journey from a book published in 1939. Wirksworth resident, Alastair Clark told us how he has enjoyed conducting his talks with us and describes his latest.

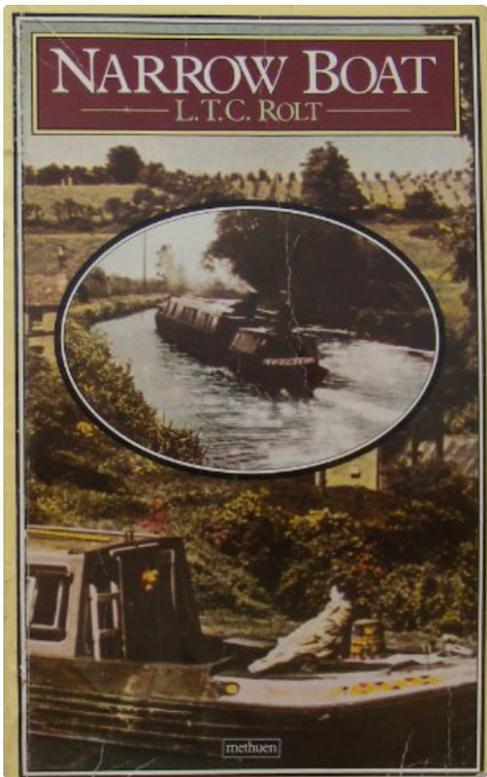


"Aren't we lucky here in Wirksworth to have such an active Heritage Centre? Understanding our past is such an important part of understanding who we are and how we got here. Wirksworth itself has a fascinating history and that history has links to events and lives from all over the world.

I have really enjoyed visiting the centre over the years and in attending the talks and presentations both in person and online using Zoom. I have even been invited to share a couple of my talks which have been described as 'light-hearted' but not 'light-weight'.

In Trig Point Charlie we looked at the origins of those tapered concrete pillars we so often see on hill tops and later we looked at scraps of evidence that can be found about pack-horse transport in Britain.." (Continued on the next page)





Above: The book that inspired Alastair's journey.

continued...

"I was delighted to be invited to launch the programme for 2022 with 'From Trent to Mersey - in the Wake of the Narrow Boat Cressy'. I was inspired to read the story of Tom and Angela Rolt's voyage through the canal system starting in 1939 and decided to recreate part of their journey on my bike along the tow path. In 93 miles I found some history and was confronted with some 21st century realities".

Alastair has many other intriguing talks including 'Peek at the Peak', 'Hershey - Cuba's Chocolate Railway', 'Great Little Trains of Wales' and 'Cycling the Danube'. He is always building his repertoire of talks and is very happy to discuss applying his own research and delivery style to a topic of choice. If you would like to organise a talk for your own group please contact Alastair on 07847417027 or email alastair@aclark.eu. Alternatively contact us and we can arrange a talk here at the Centre.

Jo Higton Metcalf, *CLEO - WHC*



Thank You For Supporting Local Traders

It was wonderful to see so many people taking part in Wirksworth Christmas late night shopping and there was a fantastic atmosphere in town, with magical entertainment – and plenty of mulled wine. Please think of us when you are looking for that special something, from local books, locally sourced gins and beers, unusual gifts- or even dinosaur poo! We hope that our customers will continue to support our local traders who have all had such a difficult time. Without your support we do not exist.



Above: Sally shows St Anselm's pupils the bones.
Below: The bones in the GIS secure display space.



Below: Cuddly rhino's are still available to buy in our shop. Take one home with you today!



Farewell To Our Woolly Rhino

We said goodbye to our woolly rhino bones as they made the return trip to Oxford. Wirksworth Heritage Centre has loved being host to these very special exhibits, only possible thanks to our GIS gallery which has secure display space. However 2022 is the bicentennial of their discovery here in Wirksworth so expect further activities. We still have our 3D bones, and there may be a surprise appearance of a life-sized woolly in unexpected places. Watch out! In the meantime, don't forget to make a visit to our current exhibition by Wirksworth Historians telling the story of so many of our shops over time. There will be a new exhibition later in 2022 which we hope will be very exciting, and pop up exhibitions may appear in our studio.

Sally Barkley-Smith, Trustee - WHC

New Staff Join The Centre

We have been pleased to welcome Eleanor Peck to our catering team recently. You may also have come across Tash and Lily. They are with us for 6 months as part of the government Kickstart scheme, gaining work experience and training with us. They have quickly become valued members of our staff team and have plenty of ideas to keep us busy.





Above and below: objects, videos and displays of the new exhibition.



Left: Collections Officer, Gordon Collins interacts with the exhibition.



New Special Exhibition - Open All Hours

The new special exhibition at Wirksworth Heritage Centre explores the town's rich business history. Wirksworth has butchers, bakers and even underwear makers! Explore their stories through objects, photos, videos, memories and smells. Visitors can watch videos about some of the historic shops, including Blitz Records, Killer's Bakery, Marsden's Hardware and its ancient ceiling, Nagziz and Thor Biscuits. Open All Hours shares memories of these unique business and the generations of shopkeepers shaped Wirksworth into the unique town it is today. The Open All Hours book, which accompanies the exhibition, is on sale in the Heritage Centre shop.

You can visit the exhibition as part of a standard museum ticket, members get in for free, it is open until 3rd April 2022.

Gordon Collins, Collections and Volunteers Officer

WHC Welcomes Wild Roots Creative

We are working with Wild Roots Creative to put on regular evening craft activities so please watch out for these being advertised. We trialled some before Christmas and they were great. They take place in our spacious studio and, as a bonus, participants can buy tea, coffee, cakes and even a glass of wine to keep them going while they craft. What more could you want?



Children's Activities And More!

We are intending to offer children's craft activities fortnightly on Saturday afternoons shortly. Lily will be leading these and she has already hosted several which have been enjoyed by all- and enabled busy parents to have a coffee while their children are occupied.

As well as our regular programme of events, which include talks, book club and open mic poetry, we are planning events for the next few months, including some for weekday afternoons. Please join us, and if there is an activity you would like to see and take part in, come and tell us about it. School and group bookings are gradually returning, including some which were cancelled in lockdown. We have a great range of visits, enhanced for those with mobility issues by the production of our guided walk films with signing and audio description. This has proved really helpful for groups when they have a few members who cannot join our guided walks but wish to be part of the visit. If you know of a group who might like to visit, please let them know about us. We can be contacted by phone, website, email or by just popping in to see us.





Monthly Craft Mini Workshop

Wirksworth Heritage Centre

 Wednesday 2nd Feb 2022
7pm - 8:30pm
Make your own willow platter, £15

 Wednesday 2nd March 2022
7pm - 8:30pm
Make a mosaic coaster £15




Monthly Book Club

at the Wirksworth Heritage Centre

Every fourth Thursday **7pm**
£2pp suggested donation
www.wirksworthheritage.co.uk

27th Jan/ 24th Feb/ 24th Mar/ 28th Apr/ 26th May/ 23rd June/ 28th July/ 25th Aug/ 22nd Sep/ 27th Oct/ 24th Nov 2022



Wirksworth Heritage Centre

poetry night

First Thursday of every month, 7pm £2

3rd Feb/ 3rd Mar/ 7th Apr/ 5th May/ 2nd Jun/ 7th July/ 4th Aug/ 1st Sep/ 6th Oct/ 3rd Nov/ 1st Dec 2022

led by Denise Bristow
www.wirksworthheritage.co.uk