



WHC News

*The latest Wirksworth Heritage Centre news,
events and announcements*



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Woolly Tails II

Easter weekend I had to spruce myself up for two days out. Untangling my fur and cleaning my muddy feet were quite a struggle, but I did look my best for my guest appearance on something called a train. I wasn't sure what to expect and on the first day it took me quite a while to comprehend what was going on. First of all there was a very strange creature belching clouds that resembled a very long snake on wheels and to my horror I had to go inside it. I didn't fancy being a dinner for this angry looking monster. However I was slightly reassured to see human family groups, laughing and smiling, going inside, so I girded up my newly brushed fur and took a tentative step inside with my minder for the day.

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Big Book Day Success

WHC took part in Big Book Day with lovely visiting authors and activities for children. Thanks to our Book Club for manning the book sale outside and to the Poetry group for taking part in the Poetry Slam at the Feather Star. Look out for many more activities and exhibitions coming up thanks to our successful bid for a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for just under £250,000 towards a 5 year project!

Sally Barkley-Smith - *Trustee, WHC*



Left: Author, Wendy book signing. Right: Sally Barkley-Smith selling books outside the centre.

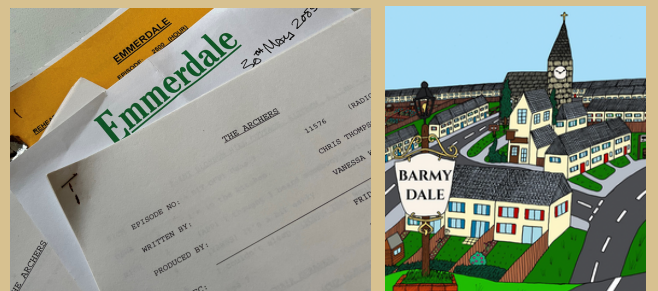


Lights, Camera, Wirksworth!



A brand new exhibition has opened in the Heritage Centre. Lights, Camera, Wirksworth! showcases Wirksworth's influence on the performing arts. Something that is out of all proportion for a town of our size. See the films and television series that have used Wirksworth's unique geography as a filming location. Discover the town's large and thriving performing arts scene and find the young (and not so young) talent the town has nurtured. You have to be quick as the exhibition is only open until September.

Gordon Collins - *Museum Manager, WHC*



Top: a view of the GIS room and some of the props on display. Above left: sample scripts from Emmerdale and The Archers, written by the late Chris Thompson who lived for many years in Cromford. Above right: poster for Barmy Dale, a radio show written and based in a fictional version of Wirksworth.

A New Home For An Old Clock



The clock from the former Primitive Methodist Chapel in Bole Hill has found a new home in Wirksworth Heritage Centre. Removed from the chapel before its closure the clock has been restored by Peter Binks. It has since been donated to the Heritage Centre. It has been mounted onto the wall of the Studio on the stairs leading up from Websters Café by Heritage Centre Volunteer Peter Chivers.

Gordon Collins - Museum Manager, WHC

Left: Our super volunteer Pete Chivers fitting the clock in place.

The Centre Achieves Accreditation

Wirksworth Heritage Centre has been successful in its application to become an accredited museum. This award is granted by the Arts Council to confirm that the Heritage Centre meets a series of strict guidelines in how the charity is governed and how we care for and display artefacts within the museum. This is not the first time the Heritage Centre has achieved accredited status. The old Heritage Centre in Crown Yard previously also held it but the move to the new building meant that we had to reapply for this status. The awarding of accredited status is the culmination of a long period of hard work by all of the Heritage Centre's Trustees, Staff and Volunteers.



Above: Gordon carefully places the loaned lead miners Standard Dish into the GIS case. Below: a volunteer cleans a museum item.



New Shop Stock

We are delighted to announce that we are stocking locally designed, Dandelion Stationery. Traid Links have kindly passed on their cards and supplier, so visit our shop and see their beautifully designed products.

<https://dandelionstationery.co.uk>

dandelion



Other Works in Webster's



In addition to ArtWirks, we have other artists who will be displaying their work in Webster's for all to enjoy (and purchase). May through to July we will be displaying the photography of Steve Gresty (May and June) and Dan Akinlolou (July). In September Peter and Gloria Carmen will provide water colours and acrylic paintings and in October there will be etchings and monoprints by Gerry Smith. Keep your eyes peeled.



Above an example of Steve's Limescape exhibition.
Below: an image by Dan Akinlolou



"I have a number of large photographs that were part of an exhibition - 'Limescape: A Shrouded Aesthetic', which has been displayed in a number of locations within the county including Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. It focused on both active and disused limestone quarries and how our desire for commodities such as glass, breakfast cereal, animal feed, cement etc. is satisfied by the products that are produced by the quarries. Once man's activity has ceased in these areas however, Mother Nature slowly and quietly reestablishes herself and erases the artefacts of human enterprise".

Steve Gresty - Artist

<https://stevegresty.smugmug.com/Limescape-A-Shrouded-Aesthetic/>

Walk & Talk Volunteer Leaders Wanted

Would you like to offer a few hours over the year to lead on a talk and/or walk about Wirksworth's history to local and visiting groups? Perhaps you have a specific interest and knowledge about local history you would like to offer as a new 1 hour talk or walk. If so get in touch! Training provided and, as an added bonus, our volunteers are invited to new exhibition openings and volunteer events. Please email info@wirksworthheritagecentre or ask at the



Above: a group pauses at the Cruck Beam.

Upcoming Exhibition: Sporting Wirksworth!



The paint might still be drying on our latest exhibition but work has already begun on the next exhibition for the Heritage Centre. Sporting Wirksworth will display the sporting history and achievement of Wirksworth, from its football and cricket teams to the talented and promising young athletes in the town. If you would like to contribute a story or objects that could feature in the exhibition please contact Gordon on the email below or call into the centre.
gordon.collins@wirksworthheritagecentre.org



Above: a photo of Wirksworth Town Football Club, dating back to 1891.

New Authors Help Us Celebrate Big Book Day

The Centre invited some new authors for Wirksworth's Big Book Day on Saturday 22nd April. Downstairs in the shop, SJ Howarth, from Cromford, sold and signed his book 'The Kindness'. It is the first in a series of adult fiction based around strong women, magic and spirituality. The second book is out April/May this year, which features Eyam and the third book, next year, will have some Derbyshire settings. If you would like to find out more, visit his website here: www.haveyougotthekindness.com.

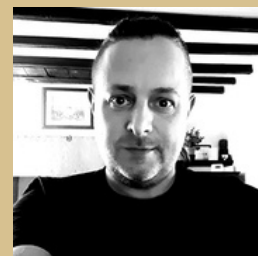


Above: Ella (7yrs) and her sister Gracie (4yrs) enjoyed the activities and story time. Wendy signs her book for them to take home.

Up in the studio, Wendy Garvey read from her children's book 'Phone Me When You Get Home', inspired by the many happy times spent on car journeys with her son, talking about the animals that could be seen from the car windows. Wendy's book



Above: Wendy Garvey with her children's book 'Phone Me when You're Home'



Above: SJ Howarth and his first book. His second out in May

(continued) offers children and adults lots of fun as they try to solve a mystery with a few surprises along the way.

Wendy also supplied the children with fun colouring in, gluing and rhyming activities as well as the opportunity for parents to buy her book. If you would like more information, you can contact Wendy and view her website here: www.manystonesbarn.co.uk info@manystonesbarn.co.uk (and of course her book is available in our shop!).

Jo Higton Metcalf - Events & Marketing Manager, WHC

Right: snippets from 'Phone Me When You're Home!' available to buy in the Heritage Shop now.

It shouldn't take us long,
But we didn't factor,
That we would get stuck,
Behind a Chicken on a Tractor!



She had been working all day,
Picking wheat for her flour,
Now she's holding up the traffic,
Driving at 5 miles per hour!



Woolly Tails II

"From then on, my fears subsided. I wasn't in a snake, but inside a long herd of cars full of friendly humans, each group within their own square den. I did enjoy myself going between these dens waving hello to everyone, despite the tight squeeze going along the corridors. High fives were in great demand but alas I could only manage high fours, although no one seemed to mind.

More surprises awaited me. In between trains there were encounters with some very, very distant fellow creatures. Somehow these dinosaurs had got on to the station platform when we got off the train. They were a lot bigger than me and to my eyes quite scary, but I reckoned I could outrun them if necessary. The children on the other hand were excited to see them and had no qualms stroking them, all without coming to any harm. As you can see, I followed their example and lived to tell the tail.

Later I got very close to the mouth of the train still pouring out clouds of what I now discovered was steam coming from the fires inside. Happily not a dragon but a shiny bright steam engine with a friendly driver. All became clear as the steam dispersed. I was the guest of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway who had allowed me to attend their Dinosaur Experience Days. Thank you EVR. Despite my initial trepidation I had a great time and loved the new experiences as did all the other guests. I wonder where they will take me next!"

Love Woolly x



Above: Woolly meets a friendly driver.

Below: A 'distant fellow creature' met Woolly at Wirksworth Station.



Newsletter Call

We do hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletters, which began in April 2021. It is emailed out to members, volunteers, staff and some hardcopies grace your tables in the cafe. If you would like to read about anything in particular, or would like to contribute, please get in touch. Perhaps you would just like to be added to the mailing list? Email info@wirksworthheritagecentre.org or speak to reception.



Upcoming Events

- Poetry Night**, Thur 4th, 7pm, free!
- Bamford's Auctioneer & Valuators**, Tue 9th, 2-4pm, free!
- Needle-felting Workshop**, Wednesday 24th, 6:30 - 8:30pm, £24pp
- Book Club**, Thur 25th, 7pm, free!
- Heritage Talk: The Peak District Ethels**, Alastair Clark, Fri 26th, 7:30pm, £7

- Children's Animation Workshop: Zoetrope**, Thurs 1st, 2pm - 3:30pm, £4
- Poetry Night**, Thur 1st, 7pm, free!
- Paranormal Ghost Night**, Sat 3rd, eve, private group.
- Bamford's Auctioneer & Valuators**, Tue 13th, 2-4pm, Free!
- Book Club**, Thur 22nd, 7pm, free!
- Heritage Talk: Road & Trackways Around Wirksworth**, Pete Chivers. Fri 30th, 7:30pm, £7

- Poetry Night**, Thur 6th, 7pm, free!
- Bamford's Auctioneer & Valuators**, Tue 11th, 2-4pm, Free!
- Book Club**, Thur 27th, 7pm, free!
- Children's Animation Workshop: Zoetrope**, Thurs 27th, 2pm - 3:30pm, £4
- Heritage Talk: To be confirmed (check website)**, Fri 28th, 7:30pm, £7

- Children's Animation Workshop: Storyboarding**, Thurs 3rd, 1:30pm - 3pm, £4
- Poetry Night**, Thur 3rd, 7pm, free!
- Bamford's Auctioneer & Valuators**, Tue 8th, 2-4pm, Free!
- Children's Animation Workshop: Stop Motion**, Tues 22nd, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, £4
- Book Club**, Thur 24th, 7pm, free!
- Heritage Talk: To be confirmed (check website)**, 7:30pm, £7

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

Look Out For...

Paranormal investigation - Are there spirits amongst us in the Centre? We will let you know!
Taste & Talk evenings- Sample some locally made whisky, gin, rum, ale and cheese and learn about how they are made/animatronic Woolly on display around town/ Woolly's Travels competition/
Geocaching trail/a Centre staff member's first children's book to be released in October.