Latest Update

After announcing the exciting news that the project had been granted £4.3m funding from the National Lottery fund last month, the Project Team have been busy briefing staff about the next phases of the project, and work is pushing forward to find the interim location for the Museum, Library and Adult Education courses for when the current buildings close to the public for construction work to begin.

This is a complicated piece of work and the teams at both Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council are working together to find the best solutions.

Volunteering Opportunities

Throughout the C&LH project there will be many different opportunities to get involved as a volunteer. Whether you want to just lend a hand or you have specific skills you wish to develop, there will be something for everyone.

Before the building works can begin the site will need to be cleared, this includes the museum collections being photographed, packed and moved to off site storage.

This will be the first major volunteer project and offers a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the project by joining the volunteer team and developing heritage skills such as object handling and packing.

Full training will be provided and volunteers will be supervised by the Museum Collections team.

Recruitment of volunteers will begin very soon so keep an eye out on the website and for posters around the buildings.

Alternatively you can email to register your interest to:

CLHproject@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Just curious about the decant? Behind the scenes photos will be posted on the Museum social media channels. Give them a follow!

Instagram @twmuseum
Twitter @TWartyculture
Facebook @TunbridgeWellsMuseum

Collection Stores, Tunbridge Wells Museum
Anne Nielsen, Documentation Assistant at Tunbridge Wells Museum tells us about the final costume display in the existing Museum, and how this works fits into the development of the C&LH.

“The final costume display before the building closes for redevelopment celebrates rarely seen highlights from the museum’s collection of men’s waistcoats. The display aims to give visitors a flavour of what to expect in the new galleries of the C&LH as all three waistcoats have been selected for display in the future Portrait & Costume Gallery.

The Georgian and Regency waistcoats on display offer a glimpse into the changing fashion worn by wealthy visitors during the heyday of Tunbridge Wells. The highly decorative and impressive quality of the embroidery also makes them pieces of art in their own right.

The star of the display is the wedding waistcoat from 1743 and its original receipt. Collections research for the new galleries uncovered the importance of the receipt. It is extremely rare for receipts to be preserved, particularly ones that document women workers. The receipt tells us who paid for it (the bride) and names the seamstress as Mary Bampton. The latter was paid the equivalent of a month’s wage for the making and embroidery of the waistcoat.”

“For the collections team, the display was a good trial for dressing the waistcoats on mannequins. We ended up having to use a female mannequin for the wedding waistcoat as the groom had very narrow shoulders. With the help of padding we adapted the female mannequin for a male shape.”

www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org/cultural-hub

If you have any questions about the project or this newsletter, please email CLHproject@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or call the museum on 01892 554171