

# Minehead Museum - Registered Charity 1169355

## Report for Area Panel meeting 11.3.2020

Julian Luke (Curator / Trustee)

The 2019 season saw another record breaking season with over 11,600 visitors to the museum. The museum continues to provide a cultural and heritage resource for locals and tourists alike. It also provides a wet weather facility for holidaymakers and an educational resource for the town. Publicity both in leaflet, advertisements and online continue to help promote both the museum and town.

Public response remains very positive, with the main criticism being on its small size. Comments are generally based on how much can be crammed into a small area. There is a steady flow of new items being donated. This year has seen a number of class and group visits, always a logistical problem given the space. The feedback has been very good and this was aided by our production of a number of age related quizzes for children visiting the museum. The museum is also registered with the Children's University scheme as a learning destination.

Over the winter we have been revamping the displays with new features on the photographer Alfred Vowles and "Growing Up in Minehead". The museum held its annual Charity Quiz evening in January, raising over £300 towards the museums running costs. A coach trip to Barnstaple Museum for "Friends of the Museum" was fully booked and at least one further trip is being planned.

The museum's publication programme continues with the launch of "Minehead's Fallen" the story of those who died serving their country in World War Two by Ian Davidson & Geoff Lloyd. A follow on to the highly successful WW1 publication "Minehead's Sacrifice" last year. The launch and talk will be in on the evening of April 15th at the Beach Hotel. A booklet of local reminiscences is scheduled for publication in the summer.

The Y.M.C.A. Beach Hotel continues to be very supportive and the location of the museum, next to the Tourist Information Centre draws people into both. The museum remains a member of Museums in Somerset and as such benefits from professional advice on matters such as conservation and training.

The museum is totally volunteer run and managed. These volunteers keep the museum open six days a week. The museum reopens on Saturday 21st March and is open to 1st November. Closed Mondays but open seven days a week during the six week school summer holidays.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with stewarding, research, administration, fundraising or publicity, so anyone interested in helping the museum develop further, is welcome. Please telephone 01643 704683 or e-mail us at [mineheadmuseum@btconnect.com](mailto:mineheadmuseum@btconnect.com) if you would like to help or you have material that would help tell the history of Minehead and Alcombe.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 to 4.00. Sunday 11.00 to 4.00

Minehead Museum, Beach Hotel Complex, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5AP