

# Royal Wootton Bassett Museum and Heritage Group

## Report to Town Trust, Thursday 14 February 2019

As you will know, Roger Smith, the group chairman usually attends the Town Trust meetings to give his report but he is currently having treatment for cancer. The treatment is at its height at the moment and it is hoped the operation, which will be quite major, will take place in about a months' time. We wish him every good wish for a full recovery.

1). A good deal of work on the inventory has been carried out. Every Thursday, volunteers organised by Marilyn Roberts and Roger Smith met in library to continue the work. However, this is on hold at present as pressure of other duties and Rogers unavailability have caused the activities to cease for the time being. We will review the situation in due course.

3). Visitor levels are generally good even in the depths of winter, even quiet days can have a few interested people visit. Recently, there was a visitor from Australia which is reasonably common as are visitors from the USA. We also had three visitors from Algeria which was unusual. The museum is currently closed on Wednesdays but will reopen on 13 February. The Christmas Lights night is always busy and though we do not have actual figures, we recon around 150-200 people visited the museum during a 2-hour period.

4). We always need new volunteers, who do not need to be experts or know too much at all about the town. If anyone knows of a volunteer, please let me know.

5). The main exhibition marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice. The trench built by Malcolm Hold has returned and the railway

display also built by Malcolm Holland, has been backdated to 1918. A set of display boards remains in place detailing the circumstances when the "Boys Came Home".

2019 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and the railway display will be updated to 1944.

6). We are grateful to the Town Council for allowing the museum to store a number of items in the workshop. We wish to review these items later in the year when the weather is warmer and time allows.

7). After the AGM last year Gillian Butterworth has taken over from me as Treasurer.

If you have any questions, I will do my best to answer them.

Steve walls

6 February 2019