



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society **May 2026**

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

The Museum reopened at the beginning of April, and we are very grateful to our regular rota of custodians, both new and old, for their support in making this possible. Our final talk of the winter about the ongoing archaeological dig at Afflington, which is supported by the Society and now in its third season, was well-received and featured in a 'Swanage News' report. A small exhibition relating to the dig, including artefacts and information about the site and items found will be installed in the Museum at the beginning of June – do pay us a visit to find out more. The 'Blacksmith' Exhibition is still in place in the Lecture Room, and we hope to have further blacksmithing demonstrations later in the year – watch for posters and information on our website.

By the time you read this, the Society will have held its AGM. On the advice of our Museums Advisor, at this meeting we will formally be changing from Charity Commission status as an Unincorporated Registered Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This step has involved much paperwork, and we are very grateful to all those who have been working so hard to make it happen. We will now have eight trustees, who are all actively involved in the running of the Society.

The Archive Team have begun work on reviewing the 1,700+ documents in our collection, before embarking on the mammoth task of digitisation...at a rate of c.20 per session, this may take some time. We have already found some fascinating material which sheds light on the way people lived in Langton in earlier times. We were proud to have been asked by the church to find items for an exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building of Langton's third church (the current one), in 1876. We have found material including Crickmay's plans from 1872, and also much information about the Pageant and Festival staged by villagers from 1976, led by the inexhaustible Reg Saville and including pictures of men in tights ! You might even spot somebody you know who was involved. The exhibition will be staged in the church, starting at the beginning of July. Do go in and have a look while it's on.

Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS.