

Museum collections report for 2019 - 2020

The Report to last year's AGM referred to the invitation received in July 2019 for the Arts Council's Museum Accreditation Return. The subsequent five months saw a flurry of activity in undertaking reviews of existing documentation and producing new policies to align with recent revisions to the Accreditation standards, as well as attempting to understand the new on-line system for submitting the application. Fortunately the application was completed and submitted a few days before the deadline of 31st December 2019, and I must thank our Accreditation Mentor, Helen Ashby, for her invaluable assistance throughout its preparation. The current Covid pandemic has halted any feedback from the Arts Council. It is to be noted that the submission included the formal change of our name from the 'Ingrow Loco Musuem' to the 'Engine Shed at Ingrow'. Until we receive notice of our, hoped for, success in retaining our Accreditation status, the former name remains the 'official' title for the museum.

The impetus achieved by completing the Accreditation Return resulted in the creation of a collections team to look at reducing the backlog of documentation and sorting through stored object and archive with a view to refining the collections and improving accessibility. Again, the Covid pandemic halted progress after only one meeting.

As a way of improving means of accessing previous activities and examples of our archive we have created a channel on the on-line video-sharing web site 'youtube'. A variety of videos and presentations have been created and posted, all of which have links from the relevant pages of our website. Further additions will be made when the opportunity arises.

Consideration as to how best we can improve our shop and archive facility has culminated in a preliminary plan undertaken by Steve Allsop for an extension to the building. This is currently in the discussion-document stage only and before any decision to progress the idea can go ahead. It is however, encouraging that a workable solution maybe possible to help alleviate our ever-present limitations on space.

As always, I'll end this report with a thank you to all those who help maintain the museum and the Learning Coach in a fit and proper state, and who treat the public with due respect and courtesy.

Pete Skellon
23 September 2020