

ARNSIDE ARCHIVE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT
AGM April 2022

The past year has been one of catching up with donations and archiving put aside during the various Covid restrictions. Fortunately, despite our being unable to work from the archive at times, the team have continued to work together as much as possible, and from the summer of 2021 nearly return to normal.

With the use of Zoom and email, progress continued to be made and we also welcomed a number of new members who have taken on areas of research concerning the village. Topics currently under research include water and public health in Arnside, Maternity and nursing homes and the archiving of the Covid diaries and images which were kept during the pandemic. Considerable work has also been undertaken on the Joyce Nicholson archive materials.

Presently, we are virtually back to normal with plans for an autumn exhibition on Arnside houses, repeating a very successful exhibition we held several years ago, and the development of the Norma and Stuart Platts room, a most exciting project, and one that will highlight the life of Joyce Nicholson, village benefactor, whose substantial donation to the Educational Institute has ensured its success over the last several decades.

Weekly archive meetings have now resumed in full and I want to thank all of you who come in regularly to work on archiving, cataloguing and research and for your consideration for each other in these difficult times. We have continued to wear masks, ensure proper disinfection control and social distancing.

During the year we have also mounted smaller exhibitions where requested for both the E.I. and Sailing Club. We have also continued to carry out a number of research requests which come in via the website on a regular basis as well as from local villagers. We reprinted our Trail leaflet with map and this has proved most successful with copies being distributed regularly to local shops, library, churches and B&Bs. The leaflet details various points of interest including Crossfield Boat Sheds, the Old Custom House and Coastguard station etc. We also collaborated with the BBC on two programmes about Arnside – Winter Walks and Villages by the Sea.

One of our strengths, despite being a relatively small group, is the fact that there are individuals who are able to take the lead in various of aspects needed to run the archive. We have also been grateful for the numerous donations made to the archive this last year, obviously we cannot accept everything that we are offered but we do try and accept those materials that are of benefit to the Archive and the village as a whole.

My thanks to everyone for their support and commitment over the last year and to our President, Norma Platts, who is always on hand with sage advice. Hopefully, the next twelve months will see our numbers grow again and I would encourage villagers to join us in this important work, there is always plenty to do.

Thank you all for coming this evening, I am sure that you will find Stephen's talk most informative and I would like to say a special thank you to him for coming to talk to us. It's special for us to have him here.

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