

ARNSIDE ARCHIVE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT AGM MARCH 2023

The past year has seen many successes for the Archive Group. The easing of Covid restrictions has enabled us to get back to normal with regard to weekly ongoing projects and attendance at Wednesday workshops has been exceptional.

The opening of the Norma and Stuart Platts room has been an excellent boost to everyone and although not strictly part of the archive, makes the entrance to the archive room so much more pleasant and inviting. A lot of hard work went into the creation and execution of this room and the EI has an excellent facility as a result.

During the year there has been an increasing number of enquiries to the archive and we have also benefitted from several donations of information and artefacts. We distributed our Prom Walk leaflet once again to B&B's, shops and caravan sites and this has been appreciated by local businesses as well as tourists.

We have also mounted small exhibits around the EI building when asked to do so and carried out housekeeping duties within the actual archive store.

Our big success for 2022 was the autumn exhibition on the development of Arnside from a small hamlet to the village as it is today. Over 100 people attended this – one of our highest attendances – and we received lots of good feedback from those visiting.

Once again individuals have taken the lead in various aspects of running the archive and mounting exhibitions. The past year has seen several members embark on some very interesting new research particularly on health and the Beechwood Estate.

We have also commenced ordering stock for forthcoming exhibitions as well as looking into purchase of a new laptop and upgrade for the mainframe. My thanks to you all for being so supportive during the past year – Arnside is lucky to have such a dedicated group of villagers who readily give up their time to collate the archive, and inform and educate on all aspects of our village and its history.

Sadly, after five years, I felt it necessary to resign as Chair in January as I did not feel able to advance the negotiations with the E.I. Committee regarding the status of the Archive. I am grateful to Paul Davies for working on a new constitution for the archive group and for the work he is doing facilitating, with Vivien and Norma, the regularising of our position with the EI Committee. Hopefully, this issue will be settled shortly and we can continue to play our part in the ongoing success of the E.I. Building.

Our next big exhibition in autumn 2023 will be on Education and the History of the E.I., marking its 150th anniversary, so there is plenty to spur us on going forward. Once again, my best wishes to everyone and my sincere thanks for your support – it has never wavered.

Sandy Felton - Chair 2022/Jan 2023