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Members' Newsletter April 2023

Hello...

We start the March newsletter with a heavy heart – saddened to share the news that Trustee Bill Tupman died earlier this month, after a short illness. Bill has always been a staunch campaigner of the Museum, and we will miss him, and his expertise, terribly. Volunteer Pam Giles has succinctly summed up what he meant to us all: "Cheers Bill, you did great." Details of Bill's funeral, and a tribute to him, can be found further down the newsletter.

In other news, we are pleased to announce the Museum has adopted its new visual identity and logo, after a lengthy consultation, which included a competition; in April we hope to sign the lease of the Court Gate building in Tavistock, and the digitisation project – mass cataloguing and showcasing the collection online – is set to start. Finally, the team are now starting work on securing fundraising for the future of the Museum, which will include a consultation to seek our members' views. We hope you enjoy the latest newsletter. Bye for now, Team Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall.

CEO's monthly update

Welcome to my new regular column, where I aim to bring you up to date with all the work going on behind the scenes to ensure the Museum's ongoing success. The year is already whistling by – it will be April when this newsletter lands in your inbox and there is so much to share with you. Firstly, I am delighted to have the regular newsletter up and running for our members. This brings me onto adding more value onto your membership, with so much exciting news coming through from the Museum for 2023, and beyond. We now have a new visual identity for the Museum, which gives a new look and feel to the newsletter, website, and more. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the consultation, or who entered the competition. As you know, we are working towards opening the first public premises in Tavistock later this year, which will start once the Board signs the lease in April. After a period of internal works, such as decorating the building, we hope to open in early summer 2023. This leads me on to appealing for volunteers to help with the general maintenance needed to bring the building up to scratch, and to staff the premises once it is open to the public. Opening the new premises is a huge step for the Museum as it will enable us to work towards Arts Council accreditation, and potential grant funding as we aim for long-term financial sustainability. As you know we recently met with SDS – a company that specialises in digitisation of archives. I am pleased to be able to tell you, the MOPIDAC Board has signed off a major 2023 investment in digitisation of our objects collection, archive documents and photographs. This means the assets of the Museum will be available to view on-line for the first time in bulk – for our members and the public. This gives the potential to research family in Devon and Cornwall, colleagues, cases, police, and social history. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the photography 'production line' of photos that will be taken of the artefacts in Okehampton, please get in touch with the Curator. The Museum relies on its volunteers – and I would like to congratulate the wonderful Wednesday team, who weekly head to the Archive at Exeter. At the end of March, they celebrated a major milestone - the 1000th personnel file catalogued. I know it won't come as a surprise - given their diligence and loyalty to the Museum - but I hope you will join me in offering huge thanks and congratulations – we couldn't do what we do without our volunteers. Finally, I am appealing for your help in taking part in a fresh consultation about future fundraising for the Museum. I am keen to know your views about how we can secure our long-term financial future. In the coming days you will receive a questionnaire about how the Museum can raise money, which I hope you will take time to fill in. I would also love to hear from you personally. This is not an appeal – it is about getting our story straight with you for future bids, what we call our "Case for Support". I am keen to get started on this by May at the latest. Please email ceo@dcpolicingmuseum.co.uk for an appointment or call me on 07399 858692. I look forward to hearing from you.

Greg White, MOPIDAC CEO.

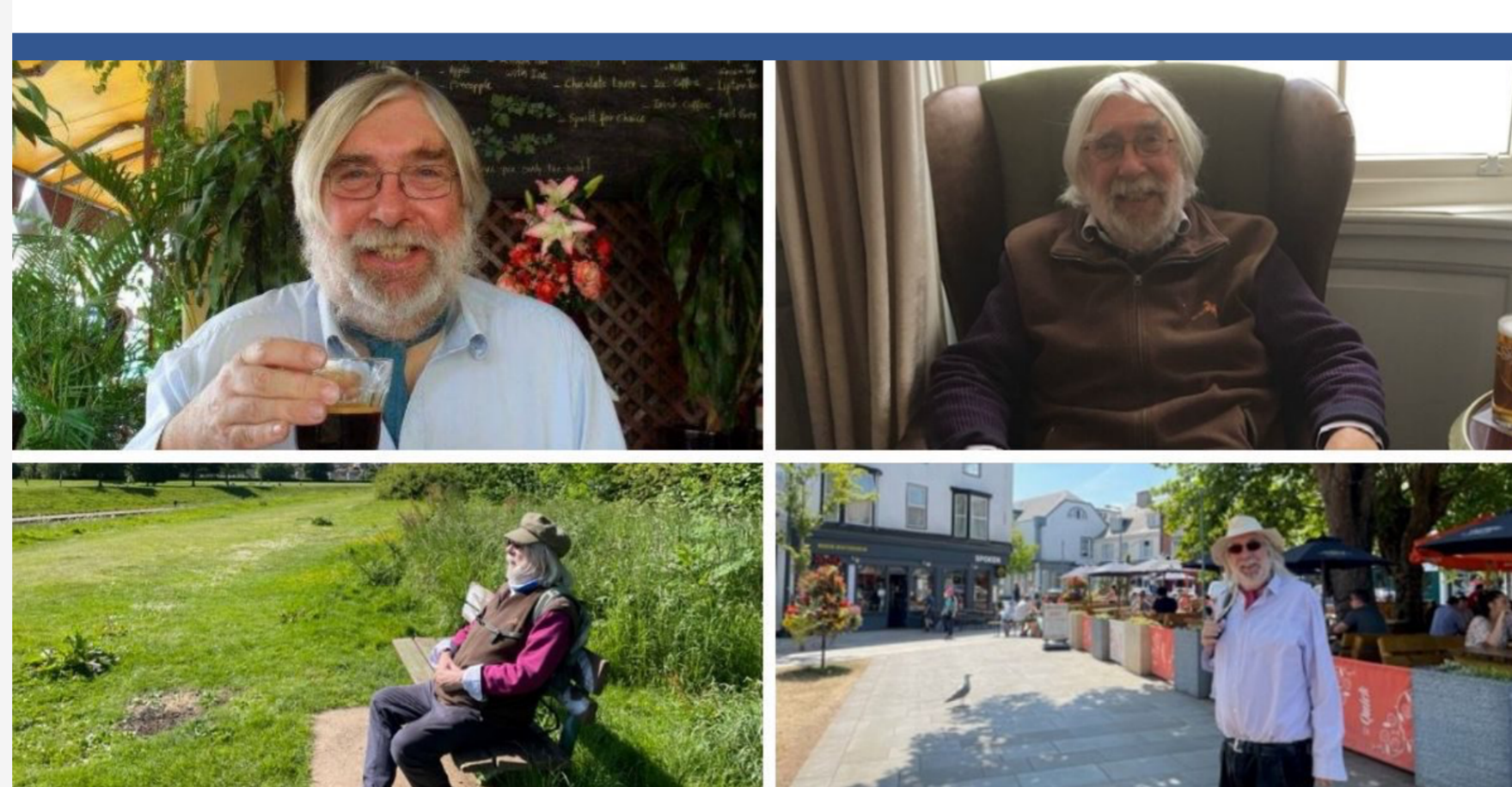
(Pictured below is the Wednesday team of Archive volunteers celebrating the 1000th personnel file catalogued)



Date For Your Diary

As we approach the signing of the lease for the premises at Tavistock we have pencilled in the weekend of Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, for a bit of a decorating get-together. Help is needed to clear anything left by the previous tenants, plus give the place a lick of emulsion and a refresh, some hole filling with Polyfilla and basic maintenance. We hope to do a lot of the work ourselves – the plan is to carry out the basic prep work on the Saturday, followed by decorating on Sunday. It's essential that we get the walls done before the floor is sanded and polished professionally - after which we can hand over to our Curator, Al. If you can volunteer some of your time on either day – or part of a day - we would welcome your help or moral support. Or even on a weekday if that suits you better. Please get in touch if you can lend a hand in any way. Email ceo@dcpolicingmuseum.co.uk

'Cheers Bill, you did great...'



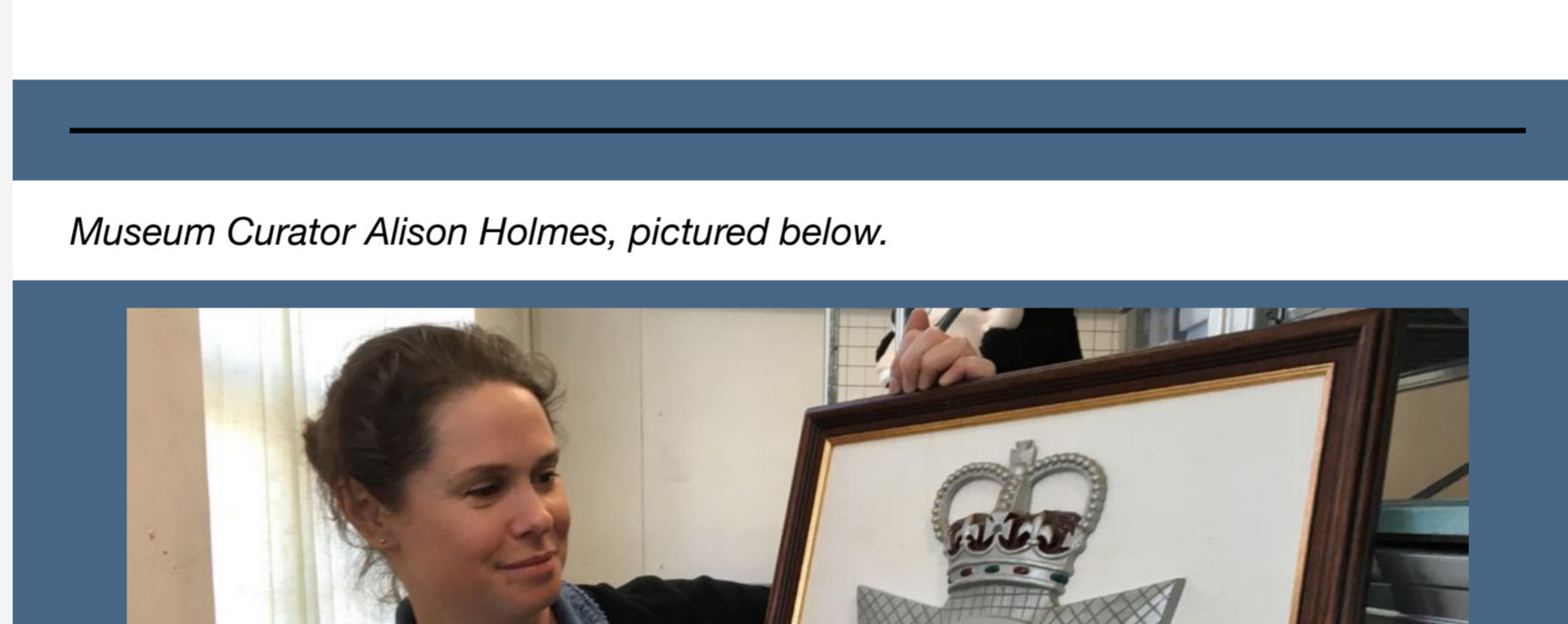
Above: Photos of Bill Tupman, who died in March.

Tributes to 'inspiring' Trustee Bill Tupman – 'the progress of the Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall will be but one aspect of his legacy'

Trustees of the Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall have paid tribute to 'one-of-a-kind, generous, selfless, fun, raconteur' Bill Tupman – a lynchpin of the charity. Trustee Bill, from Exeter who died aged 74 on March 12, 2023, after a short illness – played a 'crucial' role in founding the Museum; his dedication to the cause has been described as 'inspiring' by those who knew him. Bill's loyalty to the charity was clear from the beginning, when in April 2016 he was appointed as Director of the South West Police Heritage Trust – a role he held until his death. Leading the tributes to Bill Tupman, Steve Pearce, Chair of Trustees at the Museum, said he was a 'one-off' who played a 'pivotal role' setting up the original South West Police Heritage Trust, now the Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall. Steve said: "He was so passionate about our police heritage he constantly sought occasions where he could share that passion with the public, colleagues and us all. "He was delighted when we had found funding to actively digitalise our collection – something he had always advocated for the start. "It is so sad that he will not see the results of that project – nor indeed many other projects he played a part in that are now coming to fruition. "The trustees, staff and volunteers will miss Bill greatly, and on their behalf, I offer our heartfelt love and thoughts to Cathy and Amy Sue, on the loss of their Dad."

- A celebration of Bill Tupman's life will be held at 10.30am on Thursday, April 6, at Exeter and Devon Crematorium. Comfortable and colourful clothes can be worn. Tributes to Bill can be left [here](#).

Museum Curator Alison Holmes, pictured below.



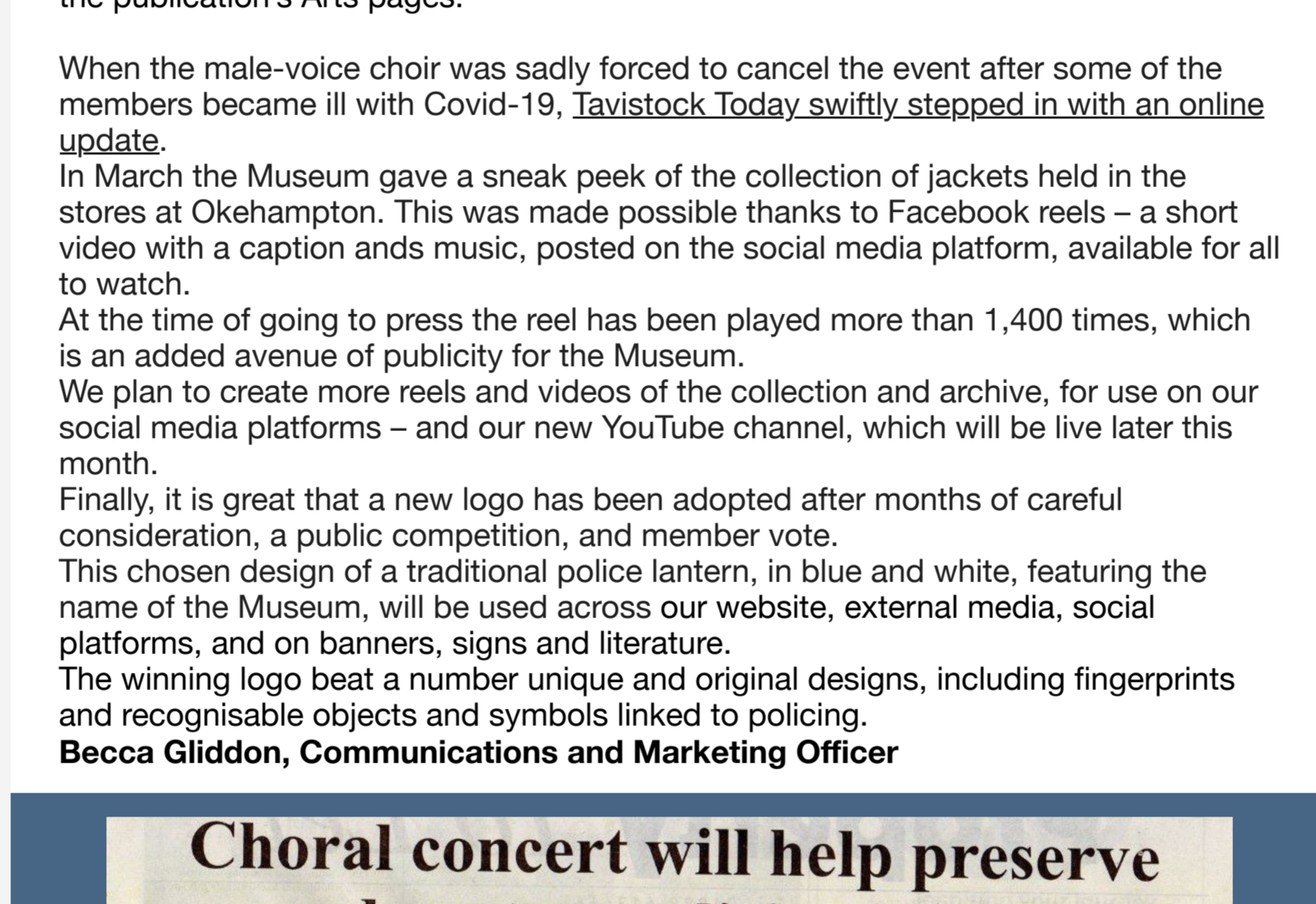
A Word from the Curator

This month we welcomed back familiar faces and new volunteers to the stores at Okehampton. After a long break it was great to see volunteers back in among the collections. The volunteers will be invaluable in working alongside the team, and myself, helping with the long-term project to digitise the collection, and looking after the objects in our stores. The volunteer team's help is vital to our Museum – working tirelessly on everything from photography to managing the uniform collections here at Okehampton. I would like to say how incredibly grateful we are to you all – and to the Wednesday team in Exeter - who are instrumental in responding to queries from the public and ensuring our archive collections are photographed and well cared for. We have also been selecting images and objects for a new project based in Tavistock... watch this space! If you would like to join our team, we have openings coming up for welcome volunteers based in Tavistock, when we open our public premises in the summer time. Help is also needed in collections care based in Okehampton. If you think you can help, please look out for our role descriptions and how to apply - coming soon to our website. Until next time... Alison Holmes, Curator

Museum in the News

The Museum won some news coverage in March thanks to the Plymouth Area Police Choir's concert, which had been planned for the end of the month in Tavistock. *Tavistock Today* publicised the event online and in print, giving details of where the public could buy their tickets for an evening of song and entertainment in support of the Museum. And Elizabeth-Jane Baldry, arts and entertainment Editor at *The Moorlander*, said she would be 'delighted' to give the concert 'a shout-out' in the 'On the Radar' section of the publication's Arts pages.

When the male-voice choir was sadly forced to cancel the event after some of the members became ill with Covid-19, *Tavistock Today* swiftly stepped in with an online update. In March the Museum gave a sneak peek of the collection of jackets held in the stores at Okehampton. This was made possible thanks to Facebook reels – a short video with a caption and music, posted on the social media platform, available for all to watch. At the time of going to press the reel has been played more than 1,400 times, which is an added avenue of publicity for the Museum. We plan to create more reels and videos of the collection and archive, for use on our social media platforms – and our new YouTube channel, which will be live later this month. Finally, it is great that a new logo has been adopted after months of careful consideration, a public competition, and member vote. This chosen design of a traditional police lantern, in blue and white, featuring the name of the Museum, will be used across our website, external media, social platforms, and on banners, signs and literature. The winning logo beat a number unique and original designs, including fingerprints and recognisable objects and symbols linked to policing. Becca Gliddon, Communications and Marketing Officer



Above, how *Tavistock Today* publicised the Museum and Choir. Below, the Museum logo and visual identity. The distinctive lantern design will be used on our social media platforms, the website and in other marketing literature.

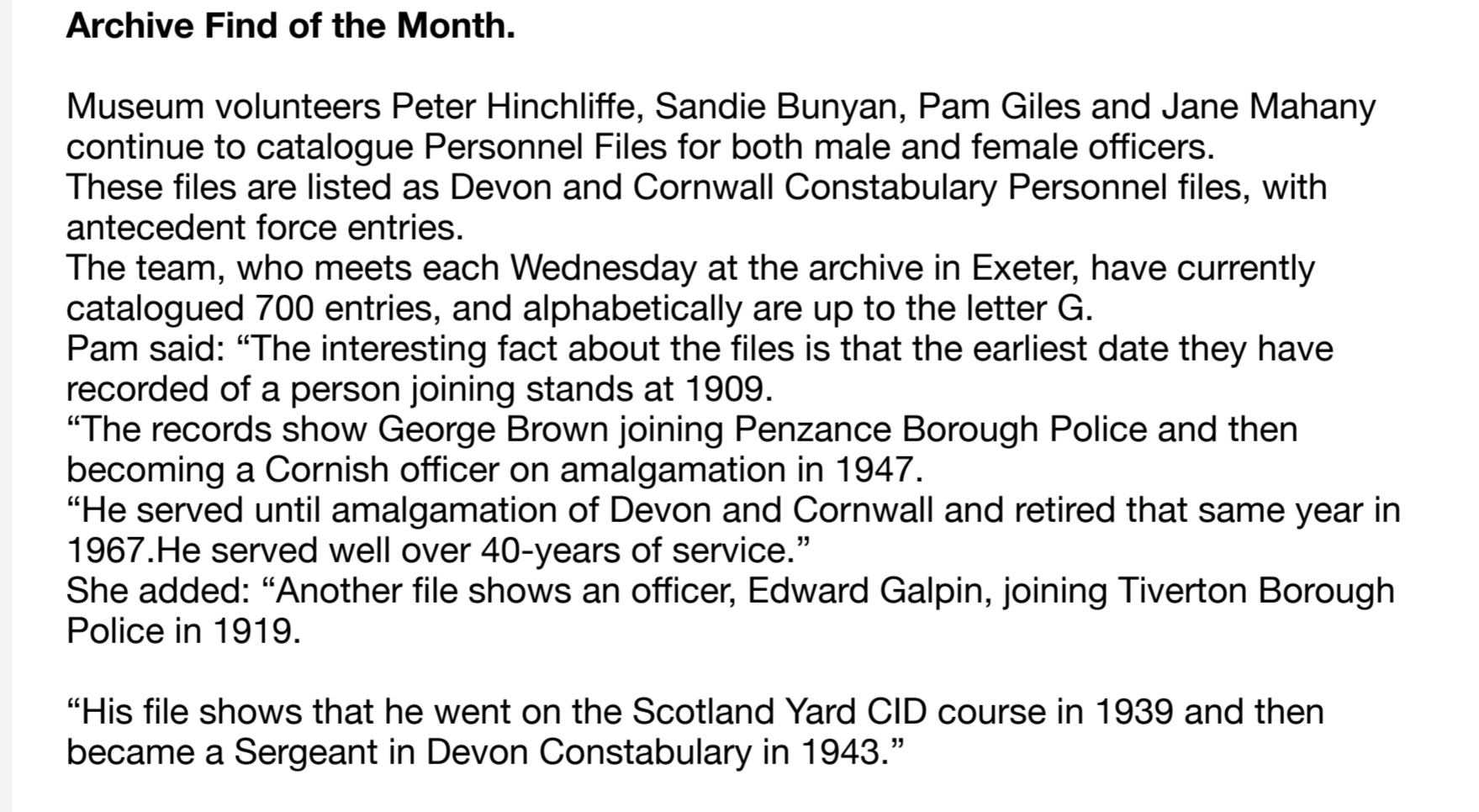


Archive Find of the Month.

Museum volunteers Peter Hinchliffe, Sandie Bunyan, Pam Giles and Jane Mahany continue to catalogue Personnel Files for both male and female officers. These files are listed as Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Personnel files, with antecedent force entries. The team, who meets each Wednesday at the archive in Exeter, have currently catalogued 700 entries, and alphabetically as far to the letter G. Pam said: "The interesting fact about the files is that the earliest date they have recorded of a person joining stands at 1909. "The records show George Brown joining Penzance Borough Police and then becoming a Cornish officer on amalgamation in 1947. "He served until amalgamation of Devon and Cornwall and retired that same year in 1967. He served well over 40-years of service." She added: "Another file shows an officer, Edward Galpin, joining Tiverton Borough Police in 1919.

"His file shows that he went on the Scotland Yard CID course in 1939 and then became a Sergeant in Devon Constabulary in 1943."

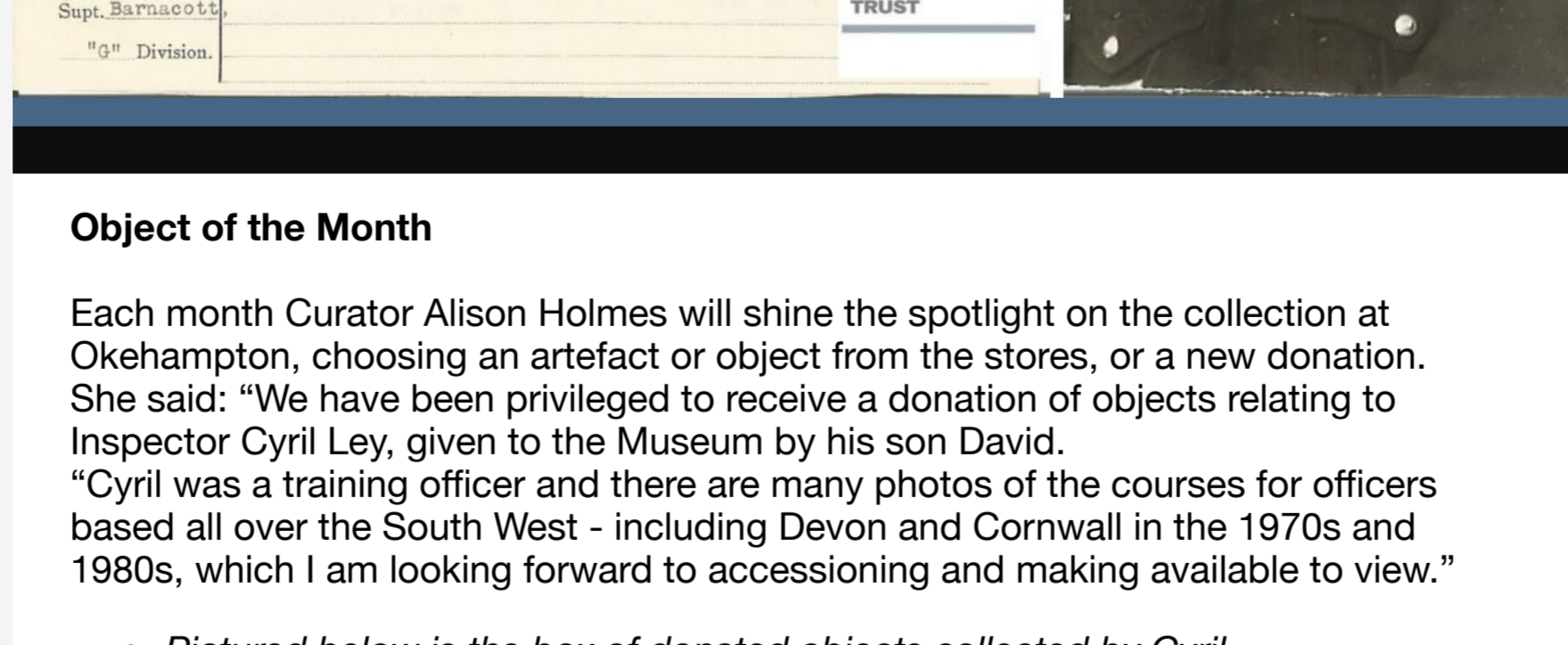
- Pictured below are documents relating to Gould, one of entries catalogued by the Archive volunteers.



Object of the Month

Each month Curator Alison Holmes will shine the spotlight on the collection at Okehampton, choosing an artefact or object from the stores, or a new donation. She said: "We have been privileged to receive a donation of objects relating to Inspector Cyril Ley, given to the Museum by his son David. "Cyril was a training officer and there are many photos of the courses for officers based all over the South West - including Devon and Cornwall in the 1970s and 1980s, which I am looking forward to accessioning and making available to view."

- Pictured below is the box of donated objects collected by Cyril.



Also this month, Alison has shared before (left) and after (right) photos of a helmet from the collection she has been carefully restoring back to its former glory. The helmet belonged to Police Dog Handler Richard Charles Clark – known as Nobby to his friends and colleagues.



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Our mailing address is: Museum of Policing in Devon & Cornwall, Okehampton Police Station, Okehampton, EX20 1NW

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