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Members' Newsletter February/March 2024

Celebrations as mini Museum officially opens in Tavistock



Museum News

The Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall unveiled its mini premises on Tuesday, March 5.

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony, at Tavistock's Court Gate building, in Bedford Square.

After the official opening, a short dedication was held inside the building to honour Trustee Bill Tupman, who played a pivotal role in founding the museum.

Bill, 74, died in March 2023 just weeks before the Court Gate lease was signed.

To see all the photos from the day, visit the Museum website.

Jim Colwell, Acting Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Police, said: "I was delighted to be invited to the official opening of the mini museum in Tavistock and see for myself the hard work that has gone into the project.

"I applaud the efforts of all the volunteers, trustees and others over the years who have got the museum to this point."

He added: "It is fantastic that Devon and Cornwall's policing heritage is being preserved in this way and we can celebrate the new public accessibility which means more people in our communities can enjoy the artefacts and memorabilia on display, as well as learn more about the history of the force."

Greg White, MOPIDAC CEO, said: "I am always aware we can only build when foundations are well-laid. We are building on what has happened in the past.

"Times have not always been as sweet or straightforward for the museum, so the team is grateful to the day-in, day-out commitment of trustees over years, plus our volunteer team. We couldn't have accomplished half of what we have without them.

"The mini museum might be small, but it's significant. The contents inside are but a tiny fraction of the collection and archive we look after.

"Now we have premises that are open to the public, we can look ahead to accreditation and fundraising partnerships, which have always been long hoped ambitions for the museum."

The museum first set its sights on the Tavistock Court Gate building in 2021, then secured funding through a grant to sign a long-term lease.

It is currently working towards achieving Museum Accreditation, where it must follow national standards in managing the collection.

Planned exhibits for 2024 include personal stories charting the history of the region's women in policing.



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