



November 2020

### **An exciting update from PMF**

I write as the Trustees of Poole Museum Foundation want to thank you for your continued membership during these unprecedented times.

We want you to know that we have been busy and hoping to write a newsletter telling you of our plans for activities and visits later in the year. Sadly it seems that this will not be possible but what we do want to tell you is that the future is bright, indeed very bright and we have been working hard to make sure that The Museum is ready for the future.

You, as much valued members, have a great part to play in this and I take this opportunity to share with you all that has been going on, what will go on, and how you can be involved.

You may be aware that the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) made an initial 'Round 1' award of £352,000 to the museum to help us develop plans for our redevelopment project 'Our Museum: Rediscovering Poole's Maritime Heritage'. Our plans include a thrilling new maritime gallery which will tell the incredible stories of Poole and the Sea. We will also be updating our café and shop, our visitor facilities and welcome to meet increasing demand. Additional funding of £478,000 from Historic England from the High Street Heritage Action Zone fund has also been secured for Scaplen's Court to maximise public access to this important building and create a vibrant cultural, community hub.

The plans we develop will support a further bid to the NLHF for £2.2m in September 2021. To secure this award, we need to raise 'match funding' and BCP Council have already committed to £400,000 of that which is massively important and a clear statement of their support for this important project.

We have some exciting public events coming up over the next few weeks as part of the Our Museum project public programme and would like to extend an invitation to these.

**Wednesday 18th November** - virtual workshop as part of our 'Re-imagining the Museum' series, focusing on design and experience in the new maritime galleries. This workshop will be a chance to consider what look and feel our new maritime galleries might have, and explore possible digital, kinaesthetic and creative ways to bring sea stories to life.

**Wednesday 2nd December** - academic roundtable. This event brings together curators, artists and maritime researchers to discuss compelling examples of maritime interpretation and consider ways to bring sea stories to life in engaging, critical and meaningful ways.

This event will feature an exciting panel of speakers, including:

**Dr Danielle-Maria Admiss** is an Iranian-English curator and researcher. A current Stanley Picker Fellow and Curator for Disturbing Conservation at MAAT Lisbon, Admiss' most recent work explores marine ecology, sustainability and the archive. ([daniadmiss.com](http://daniadmiss.com))

**Jessica Berry** is founder and CEO of the Marine Archaeology Sea Trust, or MAST. An author, maritime archaeologist, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Royal Geographical Society. Berry was part of the project team excavating the Swash Channel wreck in Poole, and is the author of South Devon's Shipwreck Trail, nominated for the Mountbatten Literary Award 2014. ([thisismast.org/people/trustees-directors](http://thisismast.org/people/trustees-directors))

**Jo Loosemore** is a broadcaster, curator and actor, and has worked extensively for the BBC and in curatorial roles. Having created the city's oral history archive and co-curated Plymouth's largest social history exhibition Tales from the City, she is now the curator of Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy – the national commemorative exhibition for 2020 in The Box, Plymouth. She has also been recently appointed Visiting Fellow at the University of Plymouth ([joloosemore.co.uk](http://joloosemore.co.uk))

**Maya Wassell Smith** is an AHRC funded PhD researcher working between Cardiff University and the National Maritime Museum, UK. Wassell Smith's doctoral project Sailor Art: Maritime making in the long nineteenth century, aims to situate craft objects produced by sailors at the heart of current scholarly debates about gendered work and creativity, military masculinity, and citizenship (<https://bit.ly/38uncBe>)

This is very exciting and hopefully the opportunity to enjoy private tours and exchange with the Project Director and architects will make you feel involved and able to participate in the future of the Museum. Your participation as members is of great value to the NLHF submission.

One of the initiatives which we plan to expand over coming months is a series of lectures that will be available exclusively to members on our YouTube channel. The first of these will be given by Professor Timothy Darvill, OBE who is a Trustee and Professor of Archaeology at Bournemouth University. Tim will share the fascinating history of three Neolithic axe heads housed within Poole Museum. In responding to the restriction of the 'new norm', we hope to follow it with future lectures and chats about artefacts and maritime history in order to give insight into aspects of the museum collection that perhaps have not been so obvious in previous years. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to become more involved in both the physical activity of restoration and the historical collections.

Your support is invaluable to the Foundation and in turn to the Foundation being able to support the Museum in going forward.

We shall share all the 'Our Museum' project news as it develops and unfolds and hope that you will find it engaging and perhaps even suggest to friends and relatives that, they too join and help us make our Museum new and innovative for the future.

Thank you.

**Felicity Irwin** (Chair) and The Trustees of Poole Museum Foundation