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New Kitchen for Museum Volunteers

Volunteers and visiting groups at Bognor Regis Museum will now be able to enjoy a cuppa in style thanks to a grant from the Rotary Club of Bognor Hotham.

The staff at the attraction had been making do with the remnants of kitchen fittings left in the former Berkeley Arms public house at West Street, prior to its conversion and reopening as a new home for the Museum in 2011. The initial work had centred on those areas used and seen by the visiting public.

Bognor Local History Society, which runs the Museum, asked the Club to help with the £1,450 cost to refurbish the kitchen, so that its staff could prepare refreshments in more modern surroundings.

History Society Chairman, Greg Burt said, “The Society is extremely grateful to the Rotary Club of Bognor Hotham for their generosity which means we can now cross another job off our ‘to do list.’ It is only right that we offer the team who man the Museum continually for over seven months, plus all those working through the winter on new and improved displays, good facilities. It also means that we are more geared up to providing light refreshments for pre-booked visiting parties if required.”

Nigel Wood, President of Bognor Hotham Rotary added “The volunteers do a fantastic job recording and presenting the town’s past for the education and enjoyment of both residents and visitors. Being a community organisation ourselves which raises funds from within the community, we have been only too pleased to help another community group achieve one of their aims.”

A grant of £50 from Aldwick Parish Council helped towards the cost of a new larger fridge to go in the new look kitchen.

The Museum, which reopens on the 28th March for the new season, enjoyed a bumper 2014 season, which saw visitor numbers up by 15% on 2013 to 7,300, the highest since the Society moved from 69 High Street, thanks largely to increased use of social media such as Facebook. Shop takings were up 84% due to new ranges of retro and vintage toys, new display cabinets and improved selection of local history publications.

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Media Contact

Greg Burt, Chairman
07957 400 588
brsfl@btinternet.com

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