

# MUSEUM NEWS

Preserve | Engage | Inspire

## Meet Jan Perett

### Museum Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator

Jan's role is primarily concerned with the recruitment and development of the Museum's volunteers. In addition to managing the rotas, her role is to ensure that volunteers are supported and also offered involvement in projects relating to the ongoing development of the museum. Jan also assists in the organisation of group visits and events and contributes to its social media presence, particularly on Facebook and Instagram.



Having started as a volunteer herself in 2018, Jan is acutely aware of the value of volunteering for the individual and for the museum. She believes that a team of happy, well-informed and confident volunteers ensures that all who visit the museum feel welcome and leave with a greater insight into the work and lives of framework knitters in the region. Welcome on board, Jan!



## Curator's Notes

Since our last newsletter, it's been full steam ahead with our Heritage Lottery-funded project: 'A Right Good Yarn.' We've appointed our key contractors and work is underway to design how the museum will look and feel in the future. We're keen to show you our plans and gather your thoughts and feedback, so look out for displays popping up around the museum soon.

To help us say 'thank you' to the lottery players who are funding this exciting work, team members Helen Brownnett and Matt Hamilton are creating a knitted version of the Heritage Fund logo using both our Griswold circular machines and the knitting frames. You can witness this process first-hand as it's being documented on our Facebook page.

Life onsite has been as busy as ever, with the museum reopening for the 2019 season on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Over Easter, we partnered with Knit for Peace – pictured above – and invited visitors to create their own scarf which was gifted to people in fuel poverty. The museum also took part in BBC Radio Nottingham's 'Big Day Out' and hosted a 'Behind the Scenes' day to help people find out about the wide range of volunteering opportunities we have to offer.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch.

Jim Grevatte

[office@frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk)



## Dates for your Diary

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### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Hannah's Tea Party. 1:30 to 4pm. Tea & cake in the garden, storytelling and Cottage Guides.

Normal admission fees apply.

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Friends AGM. F

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

'Cricket & the Framework Knitters'. See below. F

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Visit to Doddington Hall near Lincoln. £25. Coach leaves Ruddington Green at 9:15am. F

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Rag Rug Workshop, 11am to 3pm. A drop-in event led by Common Threads. Bring in your old clothes and sacks for backing and enjoy this traditional craft in our unique heritage setting.

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Readings from Victorian writers by Anita Young (in costume). 2:30pm in the Chapel. F

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Halloween Griswold Gang. Themed kids' crafts in the Chapel, 11am to 4pm. Free but donations welcome. Refreshments available. Please supervise your children at all times.

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

A Dickensian Christmas, 11am to 4pm. Our popular annual Christmas event with festive refreshments, craft stalls and stocking-making.

### Notes

- *These are selected events. Please visit our website and Facebook Events pages for full details.*
- *F denotes a Friends event – please call 0115 984 5375 for details.*
- *For other events, please contact Jim or Helen.*

## Got FWK in your DNA?

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Things have been very busy in the family history line lately! Firstly, we had our Hidden Histories project, supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund. Our work placement student, Ella, helped us deliver this by recording people's memories of Chapel Street so we can prepare displays in the Chapel and on beer mats in The Frame Breakers pub.



We've also been asking visitors if they have 'FWK in their DNA' and encouraging them to share their stories. In May, we partnered with Ruddington Library and genealogist Russell Davies to offer workshops and give people the chance to explore their family's FWK connections.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, the museum played host to the Textile Tales Roadshow, a National Lottery Heritage Funded initiative led by Nottingham Trent University. Local people who worked, or who still work, in the textile industry in and around Ruddington were invited along to share their stories, reconnect with old colleagues and have their photos taken on a knitting frame.

The Friends of Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum present

### CRICKET and the FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

A talk given by Peter Wynne-Thomas, Archivist and Vice President of Notts CCC

on **TUESDAY 6 AUGUST** at 2.30pm  
in the old Chapel, Chapel Street, Ruddington

Tickets: £5 from the Museum or Tel: 0115 9845375

## Using our history to build brighter futures

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You might remember from our last edition that we were looking at partnering with the artistic collective, Common Threads. This is now underway, and we'll be co-hosting projects with Common Threads and the Nottingham Refugee Forum to support refugee families to share and develop their skills in a safe environment.

We're also working with the charity Framework to support local people with their mental and physical health and wellbeing. A programme of creative engagement will encourage people to develop new skills, socialise, explore and express themselves through textile art. Fashion knitwear students at Nottingham Trent University will be working with us to deliver this project and support participants.

Both these projects represent how we want the museum to develop towards using our history to make a difference today, and to inspire creativity and communication that changes lives.

## Adopt-a-Garden!

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Some of our volunteers have adopted beds in the garden and are caring for them, often with the help of visitors. They're looking wonderful as a result – thanks to everyone involved!

## Narrow frame project

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We've been developing a project around our oldest frame to conserve it bring it back into use. This will allow us to undertake a forensic study of its history and discover more about the production methods of the earliest known frames. The project will involve our Frameshop Coordinator, Matt Hamilton, working with Nottingham College.

The Advanced Textile Research Group at Nottingham Trent University are also keen to help us reconstruct missing parts and even try knitting on it using their smart yarns to produce a truly unique artefact.

All this will be recorded by media students to bring a focus on the extraordinary technological leap that this knitting frame represents and the crucial work we'll undertake to preserve and advance its understanding.

## Matt's 'Big Knitathon'

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The framework knitters of 150 years ago had tremendously hard lives. They were expected to work for anywhere from 12 to 16 hours a day, six days a week, in order to make enough to feed their families. This is in stark contrast to modern day working life, with our typical '9 to 5' hours, holiday leave, sick pay, and workers' rights.

Our visitors regularly say: "we don't know we're born" – referencing the fact that we don't realise how good we have it today.



So, as a learning experience for myself and a fundraising opportunity for the museum, I'll be doing a full 14 hour shift on the frames, just as the knitters of 150 years ago did, with the aim of gaining some genuine first-hand experience of life as a framework knitter.

**Matthew Hamilton, Frameshop  
Coordinator**

## Nottingham Brewery / museum tours

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We're working with Nottingham Brewery, our charitable partner who run The Frame Breakers pub in Ruddington, to create a joint museum / brewery tour.

The event will take in a guided tour of our site, followed by refreshments at The Frame Breakers and a tour of the brewery in Radford. Bus transport will be provided. We're still in the early stages of planning the tours but have already had some interest, so please contact Jim if you'd like to know more.



## Getting creative

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Working with illustrator Holly Henry, we've launched a new initiative to encourage people to respond creatively to the site and its story.

Using the hashtag #FWKcreative and some lovely cards designed by Holly, we're inviting people to draw, write or otherwise express their feelings on the place.

Take a look at the Tea Shop wall next time you're onsite – or why not have a go at creating your own card?



## Friends' Corner

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As I write this, I'm looking forward to attending, for the first time, the Association of Independent Museums conference which this year is held at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. A representative from BafM will give a presentation about the importance of Friends groups and our Regional Representative, Tony Colton, will be there too. The Friends of the National Civil War Centre are visiting us in July for a guided tour and knitting demonstration, so no doubt we'll be "swapping notes".

In Ruddington, we're having a busy and profitable year with no less than four talks. We've already heard from Debbie Bryan about her love of lace and wonderful shop in the Lace Market, and from Richard Gaunt about the Pentrich Rebellion.

In August, Peter Wynne-Thomas, archivist and Vice President of Notts. CCC, will tell us how some of the Ruddington framework knitters became famous names in the world of cricket. And in October, Anita Young – in period costume – will entertain us with readings from various Victorian writers.

Add in our two outings and a winter concert, and there's something for everybody. We're pleased to be welcoming new people to our events, so our publicity machine must be working!

Having made a few pounds from our events, we funded the museum's new "A" board and also the "tidying up" of the outside notice board. Jim has undertaken to move forward with the Parker Bible project, so we await news and are here to help fund conservator's costs.

Our Committee has said "farewell and thank you" to Francis Luckcock and welcomed Sue Moore, whose position will be ratified at our AGM. Following this meeting Jim has kindly agreed to talk to us about all the exciting museum developments.

Jim and his team are to be congratulated on all the innovative projects taking place at the museum that are engaging local adults and children. And, as always, I thank all the staff, trustees and volunteers for their support of our efforts.

Kathy Powis, Chairman of the Friends of RFKM



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