

Dartmouth Museum

Cataloguing and conserving lantern slides and glass photographic plates.



Grant awarded: £500
Arts Council Goal: Collections
Year awarded: 2016-2017

Key aims of the project:

- To list, catalogue, scan and conserve a collection of lantern slides and glass photographic plates, including 493 glass lantern slides and 1,045 photographic plates of various sizes.
- To train a small group of volunteers who are dedicated to the maintenance and update of Dartmouth Museum's archives in the use of high quality scanners, and in the procedures for entering and searching records in the Museum's catalogue.



“It was a revelation to see and handle these amazing plates. They reveal a wealth of history and the Henley natural history slides show a thirst for knowledge which is inspirational. It was a thoroughly enjoyable team effort”

Mrs Irene Collins – Dartmouth Museum Volunteer Archivist

About the Project

The project was to catalogue and conserve a collection of lantern slides and glass photographic plates. These images are a valuable record of the social history of Dartmouth, its people and its buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are now easily accessible to historians and members of the public researching aspects of the history of the town.

The project enabled Dartmouth Museum to train a small group of volunteers, who are dedicated to the maintenance and update of the museum's archives, in the use of the two high quality scanners recently purchased by the Museum. This training also involved learning the procedures for entering and searching records in the Museum's catalogue. Consequently, these volunteers are now able to respond quickly to the increasing number of requests for information and images from the general public, historians and the local press.



What went well and were there any challenges?

The team learnt quickly that advance planning was essential so the archive material and printed labels were available when required. During the project, the team found it was best to work with two small well trained teams of volunteers who were dedicated to the task.

How has the museum improved as a result of the project?

Dartmouth Museum's profile in the local community has been enhanced as a result of this project, with increasing requests for assistance from the local press and local historians.

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