



Friends of Chatterley Whitfield

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk.

Members Update 2018

WELCOME



OUR NEW BUILDING FOR 2018 AND BEYOND

The 'Friends' are still waiting to get access.....

The Deployment Centre on site is no longer accessible without a Permit to Access, but we have been promised extra fencing to allow us more easy access.

I must mention our new chair Darren Evans at this point who has done a fantastic job and managed to source, metal shelving, bookcases, display cabinets, computer desks and chairs, filing cabinets etc at what can only be described at a very reasonable cost.

We can not use building 29B yet and are storing the stuff on site

Also thanks to Councillor Ann James who always seems to find a way.....She has managed to get an answer from the City Council regarding the delay with the possession of the building - ONGOING...

Message from the Secretary.....

The start of an exciting New Year for Chatterley Whitfield Friends - Well I thought it would be an easy transition.....THINK AGAIN.....IT GETS BETTER.....

You all know about Building 29B.... The documentation is presently with the legal department of the City Council, who we have been told have a backlog.....

We were informed that with effect 1.2.2018 the CCTV would become operative and there would be a 14 day hand over period when eventually there would be no onsite security..... WRONG.... Arrived on Thursday morning to be refused access to site as the security would go that morning. All the 'BIG Wigs' from the council were coming on site to collect the keys etc. Well quick phone call to Anthony Williamson and we were allowed on and we managed to get some work done in Deployment centre. Before we left the site we had an informal chat with the officers from the council.

Very interesting..... They are very aware of the 'Friends' and the work we do, but I for one was very frustrated in their general attitude brought about by the apparent lack of communication. It only took an email or phone to let us know what was happening..... Quite a few of the members did express their concerns about the situation....

So as from 1.2.2018 all access to the site must be authorised and a Permit to Access issued. I am still not sure who brings the keys and then does the key holder be it Council staff or Red Guard Security have to remain on site while we do !!!!!!!

TO BE CONTINUED



Contact Details;

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk
www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield
www.twitter.com/chatt_whit



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Extraordinary General Meeting on:
SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY 2018

- New Chair - Darren Evans
- New Deputy Chair - Mark O'Grady
- New Treasurer - Brittain Adams
- New Committee Members - Jamie Evans - Geoff Owen
- New Constitution adopted
- Charitable Status being progressed



It is not all doom and gloom.....

The Digitization Grant forms have been signed and we are waiting for the first deposit of monies into the Bank Account.

In the meantime a load a stuff is waiting to go into Building 29B.

Anthony and Steve from the council are doing as much as they can to get building ready as it has been unoccupied for a while.....



The Digitization Grant:

Chatterley Whitfield Colliery closed in 1975 and a few years later in 1979 became a mining museum. It was one of the first museums to offer underground tours but in 1993 the Museum was closed. In 1994 the National Coal Collection was transferred to Caphouse Colliery, Wakefield and a lot of the historical artefacts were auctioned off. The site was abandoned and taken over by Stoke on Trent City Council. The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield were formed and have been active in Preserving the Past for the Future. 'The Friends' have rescued old maps, books, documents and artefacts left on site over the years and built up a substantial collection.

Our aim is to preserve the historical material by digitizing it before it is stored in a more appropriate but restrictive environment.

In the process of digitization the 'Friends' would like to share their experiences and encourage people from the local community to participate.

If the funding is successful it would be used for purchasing computers, suitable scanning equipment and artefact restoration materials.

The digitised collection(s) will be placed online and made more readily available.

WE GOT THE GRANT.....



LIASING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

We have been chatting with Jon Goodwin the City Archivist about moving stuff/artefacts from a number of buildings to preserve them. He has a very positive attitude towards our suggestions which include;

- Removal of the Lamp Racking in the Lamp Room
- Removing the 'Murals' from the old Canteen
- Reallocating artefacts presently stored in Building 23

On behalf of the 'Friends' once again thank you for your support in2017 and ALL THE BEST FOR 2018

Nigel Bowers

Secretary

February 2018