

CHAT WHIT NEWS



Hello All,

It is that time of year again - HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2023.

This year they are Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September and the following weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September. This year we are running 5 tours a day, commencing with a site tour and hopefully having access to a few buildings, then visiting our recently opened PROJECT 30 building, then onto the Remembrance Garden before ending up in the Heritage Centre.

A LOT TO SEE

If you can spare some time come along and be a steward for the day....

Project 30 Opens



All the hard work by the Friends and they have managed to arrange the mining artefacts in building 30 so that members of the public can safely enter the building and view them. It would not have been possible without the support of Historic England who gave the Friends a grant so the building could be cleaned. It had been locked for years.

At 12 noon on Thursday 10th August 2023 the building was officially opened by Louise Brennan, English Heritage, Ellis Scott, CEO of Cromford Mills and Bill Klempner from Historic England.

WHAT CAN BE FOUND IN PROJECT 30

- Displays - Mining Equipment recovered from the Underground Experience
- Mining Models
- Underground Battery Locomotive x 3



We had a visit on Thursday 10th August from Historic England, The Arts Council and the National Lottery

Following a site visit and opening of Project 30 they enjoyed a lunch buffet.

It was a great morning networking and discussing potential funding sources.

SO WHAT IS HAPPENING NEXT ?

Well it has taken the chair of Trustees and Ann James just over eleven years to get access to building 30, which is the Ken Salt building. It opened in 1991 in the museum days and housed the British Coal Collection. The collection is now at Caphouse, The National Coal Museum. In 2006 it became a temporary storage facility for large mining artefacts which were removed from the Underground Experience when it was demolished. This photograph shows one side of the building taken in 2014 and since that date it had been sealed by the council over concerns of asbestos. However in 2022 the council were persuaded to conduct an asbestos survey and it was found that the asbestos was confined to a small office, NOT the whole building. So Historic England were approached and through their generosity money was found to enable the Friends to have the building cleared of asbestos and have where possible the artefacts cleaned. Years in storage under a leaking insecure roof made it attractive to pigeons and it was not a pleasant site. The Friends got access to the building but have only made it safe for public access in one of the bays. The view you see here is the problem roof which still leaks and there are plans to have the whole roof replaced, making it watertight. As well as a new roof the Friends are negotiating with Stoke on Trent City Council for a five year lease on the building where they want to expand Project 30. Project 30 a project to create a mock coal face inside the building, using some of the artefacts and supplementing them with modern technology. The addition of this building brings to life some of the models and documents on mining we have in the Heritage Centre and also supplements the exhibits that have been constructed in the Remembrance Garden. All the work in the building moving artefacts etc could not have been made possible without the dedication of Friends.



The new facility will be open on our regular days on site of Thursday and Saturday mornings, BUT will also be part of the Heritage Open Day Tours in September.

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD.





WE HAVE A NEW CO-OPTED TRUSTEE

Hello, my name is Sharon Bowers and I have recently been elected as a co-opted trustee at Chatterley Whitfield Friends CIO.

I first began visiting the Heritage Centre on a regular basis at the latter end of 2019, just popping in for a cuppa and a chat with other volunteers.

As a keen hobbyist photographer I have been able to put my photography skills to use by keeping a photographic record of the site (via the safe route and complying with Health & Safety guidelines) and the ongoing work being carried out by the volunteers.

I became more involved with events such as Heritage Open Days helping to provide refreshments for volunteers and visitors.

I was elected as a member of the Management Committee in November 2022 and took on the role of leading committee meetings and ensuring that all meetings have an agenda and comprehensive minutes are taken and circulated to all members of the committee. This has allowed me to have a greater insight into the work required to move things forward. The role of trustee will allow me to help do this to a greater degree. .

Come and visit us and see what being a member is all about

**In 2023 we will continue to open on Thursday and Saturday mornings
VOLUNTEERING**

I do not know where we would be without our volunteers and support from our followers on the social media networks. We have a good membership, but we can strive to see if that can be increased.

We keep a record of hours attended by volunteers at the Heritage Centre and a **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all the volunteers who have given up their time to support Chatterley Whitfield. As a **MEMBER** you are supporting Chatterley Whitfield with your monetary contributions that helps the charity survive. BUT what else can you offer:

- Come along and help on Thursdays and Saturdays - Or just come along for a visit, have a brew with us.
- Help out with events as Hosts
- Offer your expertise.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2023 - MEMBERS WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND HELP

Heritage Open Days 2023 - 8th-17th September.

Dates for the 2023 Heritage Open Days have been announced and we will open the site up for tours on the following weekends.

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September 2023

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September 2023.

If you can spare a few hours to help will stewarding please let us know. Contact us via email at: chatterleywhitfieldfriends@hotmail.com