

Welcome to 2021!

Firstly, we wish you all that you are hoping for in this New Year, especially good health and happiness for yourselves and those you love. We're looking forward to the vaccine and a return to a slightly more normal life and we're sure you are too!

In the meantime, we are still holding it together at the Old School, keeping it clean and tidy inside and out and planning, planning, planning. Although we have not been able to meet in groups, small parties and individuals have been visiting, especially those of us working on the archive and what soon will hopefully be our museum of Broadcasting and vintage electronic technology

You will remember that Stewart Orr bequeathed us his wonderful collection of equipment acquired during his days working for Radio Norfolk. The giant task of curating this has now started. Anthony Scott Robinson and Graham Moore are working to set this all into a more understandable material narrative. And where appropriate exhibits have been restored to working order to give visitors the experience of the sound and operation of vintage technology.

Anthony is planning a series for you, entitled "Object of the Month" so that we can see (and understand!) the goodies we have upstairs. I'll forward the first of these, so do have a look. It's fascinating stuff and each month from February we'll send you a further episode. Full marks to any of you who can recognise the object without reading the text!

The Old School survived the torrential rain we suffered over Christmas very well, which I have to tell you was more than could be said for the many houses in Brockdish which were inundated and will take months to dry out and repair. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the affected residents. We are thankful for the strong community spirit here which might go a small way towards lightening the burden for those most affected.

Even some of the very old houses with no history of flooding were affected, which underlines the implications of climate change and the effect it will have on our lives. I have also attached a couple of pictures for you to see and will file more in the archive at the Heritage Centre. I think we should all pay more attention to recording these events as we try to learn from them. Looking back at the series of black and white photos I took of Brockdish at the millennium I'm amazed at the changes which have taken place even over this relatively short period. We have one set at the Centre and I remember I also placed a set within the roof of our own 17th century house and a further one in the village hall which was in the process of construction at the time. I wonder who might find them?

We look forward to beginning to pick up our lives at some stage during 2021, so very good wishes to you all and keep safe!

Mary Thompson and all your trustees.