

## ARUNDEL MUSEUM UP-DATE

Last year was one of:

- **Anticipation** - would the Heritage Lottery Fund give us the grant for which we had applied?
- **Celebration** - when we were awarded the grant in March.
- **Frustration** - on the surface nothing seemed to be happening for the rest of the year.

There was in fact a great deal going on behind the scenes. The lease had to be finalised, the contractor had to be selected and the tender agreed, and the Curator and Education Officers had to be appointed. All this has now been done.

The work now falls into two projects - the building of the Museum, and the interior design and fit-out of the Museum displays. The portakabin, which we have used since the beginning of 2008 has become the workshop to be used for unpacking, sorting, cleaning artefacts prior to being displayed. We were able to vacate this in October when we took over the Information Centre in Crown Yard in October. The Museum and Information Centre is now run by Museum volunteers,

We are still fundraising because Arundel has so much history that we do not yet have sufficient funds to tell the whole story. I would like to invite all those of you who are interested in antiques to an '**Antiques Road Show with a Difference**' to be held at the Town Hall in Arundel on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm for 7pm. The well known local auctioneer, Rupert Toovey, will talk about the items brought in by the audience (no jewellery please) and give a free valuation if asked for. This will be followed by a ploughman's supper – there will be a bar. After supper Mr Toovey will hold a **fundraising Auction of Promises**. We have some very interesting **Promises** coming in. If you would like to add a **Promise** to our list we would be most grateful BUT do come and join the fun and help to make Arundel's new museum an exciting '**must visit**' place. Tickets are £10 from Larkins in Tarrant Street, Arundel or order by calling 01903 882456 .

Now that we have moved the Museum into the old Information Centre in Crown Yard Mews, the portacabin, which we have occupied since the beginning of 2008, has become a workshop into which artefacts are being brought so that they can be unpacked, sorted and prepared for exhibition.

At the end of October last year, Terry Bedford, who has supported us since 2007 by undertaking all our catering at cost and so increasing our fundraising efforts, left the St Marys Gate Inn, and at his farewell evening we surprised him by making him a Fellow of the Museum Society.

We have the following events scheduled for the next few months:

- **March** - Antiques Road Show with a Difference.
- **April** - A Visit to Goodwood House.
- **April** - St George's Day Dinner.
- **May** - AGM.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for all their enthusiasm and support during this year. It is greatly appreciated, and without you we would not be able to exist.

