Welcome to this, the third newsletter to FOSM members.

Change at the Museum has been happening apace. The amount of floor area it occupies is now about five times what was first established back in 2012, and over the last few months many more ceramic objects have been brought out of storage. There are now dedicated displays of some of the finest early Spode bone china in the collection and of Copeland period Parian wares. Further additions have also been made to the displays in the Blue Room. A much enhanced shop, new toilet facilities and a small tea room have also been created. The Visitor Centre has now been renamed The Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre to more adequately reflect the combination of a Heritage site and the Spode Museum.

The transformation from near dereliction to usable and visitor friendly space could not have been achieved without the investment made by Stoke on Trent City Council who have structurally repaired and refurbished the old retail building which houses much of the Museum’s space. Substantial internal work has also been carried out by the Trust, often by Trustees equipped with no more than woodworking tools, paintbrushes and determination.
Growth rarely happens without growing pains; unavoidable new costs, such as business rates and much higher heating bills, have appeared. The manager, trustees and volunteers are working all the harder to generate the income in the shop to cover these. The shop is a vital and integral part of the Museum, because in order to obtain grants and other funding for major projects, it is important to demonstrate that the Museum is capable of generating sufficient income to cover its day to day operating costs. 2017 was an excellent year for the shop, with sales quadruple the previous year’s level – but further sales growth this year will still be needed to be able to break even against these new costs.

Now more than ever, the Spode Museum Trust is urgently looking for volunteers. Being a Stoke resident is obviously desirable, but some of the Museum’s functions can be done on line from anywhere – a number are at present. Particular needs at the moment are for people with marketing, bookkeeping and fundraising experience, as well as for front of house work at the Heritage Centre in Stoke. If you can spare some time, or know someone else who might be interested, do please get in touch with the Trust directly by email on contact@spodemuseumtrust.org

**RECENT FOSM PROJECTS**

Over the last year the FOSM committee has agreed FOSM funds on the following projects:

- The purchase of a number of ceramic items from a sale of part of the late Robert Copeland collection, which FOSM donated to the Museum. A selection is shown here, including a charming coffee cup and saucer painted by Robert Copeland age 12 years.
• Above: the restoration of the Good Samaritan Loving cup and the vase painted by Frederick Adams is now complete and the Loving Cup is currently on display in the Bone China cabinets at the Heritage Centre.

• A period cabinet formerly from Shugborough Hall, now fully restored by members of FOSM and located in one of the new spaces at the Heritage Centre for the display of items from the collection.

• The Parian portrait bust of Thomas Battam which was reported in the last Newsletter is now included with a dedicated display of Statuary Porcelain together with another donation from a FOSM member, a bust of Ophelia.

• Two supper segments and covers c.1820 transfer printed with Italian pattern and a pedestal bowl transfer printed with Tiber pattern donated by a Spode Society member are now on display in the Blue Room.

• A large Spode soup tureen and cover decorated with the Amcotts Ingilby arms, c. 1824 donated by a member of the Spode Society - now on display in the Teapot Cabinet in the Blue Willow Tea Room. A Spode Imari pattern soup tureen and cover previously exhibited at the 1970 Bi-Centenary Exhibition held at the Royal Academy, donated by a former Spode London Sales Manager - now on display in the Bone China cabinets.
BRINGING THE CERAMIC COLLECTION BACK ONTO THE SPODE SITE

The Spode Museum Trust is hopeful of moving the entire remainder of the ceramic collection from its present storage locations back onto the Spode site in the near to medium term future. The floorspace has been earmarked, but will need some substantial refurbishment. The 76 cabinets obtained from Wedgwood in 2015 with FOSM’s financial support will provide housing for a good deal of the collection. The move will be a massive operation and inevitably it will be expensive. The Museum will be looking for financial support through grants and from wherever else it may be found. The FOSM committee has already earmarked a substantial amount towards this cost. Therefore your continued financial support is vital and all donations will be gratefully received.

GIFT AID

Gift Aid helps FOSM funds go further for the benefit of the Spode Museum Trust – members’ subscriptions (where applicable) and all donations received in the collection box at the Heritage Centre have enabled FOSM to claim back £505.19 in Gift Aid in 2016. A claim for 2017 has been submitted and is awaiting approval - a comparable figure is expected.

GDPR

In May 2018 new General Data Protection Regulations came into effect. Although FOSM will not need to register it will have to comply with the law. To this end each member has been contacted to obtain their written permission for FOSM to hold their details on computer or hard copy records. To further comply with the regulations FOSM has published its Data Privacy Notice on the dedicated page of the Spode Museum Trust website (as below).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due on the 1st January each year and for those of you who do not subscribe by Bank Standing Order and would now wish to do so please contact the Membership Secretary or follow the link on the FOSM page of the Spode Museum Trust website:
http://www.spodemuseumtrust.org/spode-museum-friends.html

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next AGM will be held on Thursday, 20th September at the Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre, Elenora Street, Stoke ST4 1QQ commencing at 2.00pm. The meeting is open to all current paid-up members to whom a notice of the AGM has been sent.

- A documentary Willow pattern plate with handpainted inscription on the reverse dated 1847. Donated by The Copeland Family.