

NIDDERDALE MUSEUM

The museum is situated in The Old Workhouse in Pateley Bridge, 20 miles from Harrogate. It was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017.

It was established in 1975 by a group of teachers, and now comprises 12 display rooms, along with an office, 2 storerooms and a workshop. Its collections include costumes, industrial and farming items, archive material and a large number of old photographs. There is an entire cobblers shop, along with several smaller areas set up as shops or exhibitions and many display areas. There are over 32,000 items which are all recorded in a collections management database, which is soon to be replaced. The items all relate to Nidderdale and generally tell the story of the dale over the past 150 years. The museum is open at weekends during the winter, and every afternoon from April to November. A rota involving some 50 volunteer stewards ensures this regular opening, and we hope to increase this.

Nidderdale Museum Society CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This means it is a registered charity but it is also a legal entity and trustees do not have liability beyond £1. It has been and still is entirely volunteer-run, apart from some part-time help from a museum professional in order to establish all the documents needed to pursue accreditation. This was awarded in November 2023, and is evidence that the museum is appropriately operated as a museum and has all the necessary paperwork and procedures in place.

The Society is managed by a board of 9 trustees, most of whom have been involved with the museum for many years. New faces and ideas would be welcome to help the museum establish its place as a key attraction in Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale and to increase visitor numbers and gain further funding. Day-to-day operation of the Museum is agreed by the Operations Committee. The Chairman, Secretary and other key volunteers are at the Museum each week, dealing with the collections and managing the building and its operation.

The Museum is situated in The Old Workhouse which is owned by North Yorkshire Council, who lease part of the building to the Society, and other parts are used by Nidderdale National Landscape and North Yorkshire Police. The work towards accreditation, along with creating a Forward Plan and setting up a new collections management system was funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Other small project grants have been obtained from Museum Development Yorkshire and the Association of Independent Museums. No core funding to help with general running costs is received. The Forward Plan looks to increasing visitor numbers as this is the major source of income.