

Association of Lighthouse Keepers

Keeping Lighthouse Heritage Alive

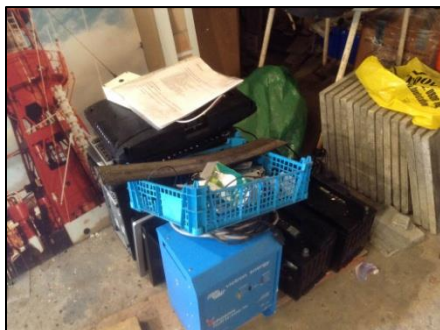
AT HURST



CASTLE

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

With the Castle opening at the end of March, the first weeks of the New Year were earmarked for cleaning and refurbishment of some of the existing exhibits. This included bringing the audio visual displays up to date as they were beginning to be a little troublesome. Most of the equipment was second-hand, old, outdated and worn out and the castle is a cold and damp place with electricity via a generator which turns everything on in the morning and everything off in the evening. No 'on standby' at the castle! With a bit of advice, some research and a lot of trial and error we now have four new



Old audio/visual equipment ready for disposal

audio visual displays showing updated videos.

The Nab Tower lantern has progressed as far as we can go for the moment. The putting together of the structure is complete and new glazing installed. We are now thinking of the interior and had what we thought was a good idea. We would ask a local metalwork company to make the floor structure, steps, pedestal for the optic and other associated bits and the ALK team would install it and do the finishing off.



Nab Tower lantern with some maintenance going on in the background

Unfortunately, when quotations were received, it was immediately apparent that the cost was going to be far in excess of the funds available so it is now back to Plan A which is for the interior of the lantern to be constructed by the ALK team. On reflection, although it will take a good deal longer to complete, the construction will be largely of wood and therefore much easier to work with to take account of any little measurement errors and tweaks that might be needed. This is all now in the planning stage and work will start shortly on the frame for the mezzanine floor and steps up to it.



New display boards in the making

In the meantime, the team are making more display boards, one for general ALK and other information in No. 2 room, one for a display of lighthouse photographs in No. 1 room and one outside the Nab Tower lantern to show the history and how the work on the lantern progressed. We are hoping to receive some small displays

from the 'Guiding Lights' exhibition, which recently finished at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and which we will need to find room for, and we have another audio/visual display to install.

We are also waiting for a motor to be installed in the light vessel optic in the Trinity House rooms to enable it to slowly rotate. Unfortunately, although all the engineering work has been completed, installation has been delayed due to illness. So, lots going on to keep us busy!

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If you would like to help us in our efforts by becoming a member, or just because you like lighthouses, please pick up a leaflet or have a look at the website on www.alk.org.uk. Or have a chat with Keith Morton, the ALK Project Manager at Hurst. He is usually at the Castle on a Monday or can be contacted on hurst@alk.org.uk or 01329 843883. There is also a social side to the ALK who organise events, both locally and countrywide, and also 'lighthouse themed' tours in the UK and abroad.