

# MOVES a step closer

By KAREN DARLEY

A BID to create a new social history centre has taken a step forward with the appointment of an expert who will take on the task of cataloguing the Woodhams Stone Collection.

Sarah Maulby, from York, has been appointed as assessment and cataloguing officer and has started work on the mammoth task of sorting through and listing the thousands of objects relating to Malton and Norton collected by local historians John Stone and Sid Woodhams over the last 40 years.

Sarah, who has previously worked at York's Castle Museum and the National Media Museum in Bradford, is working over two sites in Malton, systematically sorting items from the Woodhams Stone Collection into sections relating to the local industries and domestic uses they relate to, including brewing and coopering, agriculture and kitchenalia.

She will also take on the task of sorting through John Stone's huge paper-based collection of items, including historic documents and postcards relating to the twin towns of Malton and Norton.

Sarah said: "This is a significant collection because it is so closely related to Malton and Norton and is very comprehensive.

"The two strands of the collections fit so well together, and part of my role will be to make links between the documents that John has brought together to the solid objects that make up Sid's collection.

"It is an exciting role for me to take on and from what I have seen so far, there is an amazing array of materials to work with which all need assessing, photographing and cataloguing before the Woodhams Stone Collection steering group can take the project through to its next stage of finding a permanent home for this fascinating collection."

The Woodhams Stone Collection steering group was established in 2011 after Sid Woodhams and John Stone agreed to gift their collections to the towns of Malton and Norton with the express wish that they should be displayed to the public in the town where they originated.

The steering committee has secured support from the Defra-led LEADER programme and Ryedale District Council to take the first steps towards this aim.

Coun Di Keal, chairman of the committee, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to take these first steps towards our ultimate aim of finding a local home for Sid and John's collections and that Sarah has taken on the challenge of assessing and cataloguing everything for us.



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"It is going to be a big task and we are appealing for more local people to volunteer to help us with it.

"The exhibitions that we held in Malton and Norton last year did result in some volunteers coming forward, but we really need more people to join us.

"I am sure that they would find some of the weird and wonderful things in the

collection and the everyday items that were used in the past as fascinating as I do and feel that they are really contributing to the living history of Malton and Norton."

Anyone who would like to volunteer to work with the Woodhams Stone Collection can phone Coun Di Keal on 01653 694546.

## £4m business plan unveiled

PLANS for a £4 million business park expansion scheme in Whithy aimed at attracting new investments and employment has been unveiled.

A draft action plan for the business park on the outskirts of the town has been devised by Scarborough Borough Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority.

Sarah Housden, the national park's policy manager, said

the scheme will provide land not only for industry but also for a hotel development.

Mrs Housden added that the plan will also benefit the proposed major windfarm development at Dogger Bank, 100 miles off Whithy, and the £1.7 billion potash mine earmarked for farmland just south of the Whithy, which for generations was one of the North's worst unemployment blackspots.

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