

DEREK RAVEN & the Birchington Heritage Trust

The idea of a Birchington Heritage Trust was a vision that Derek formulated at the start of 2000, after visiting an exhibition of Birchington photographs at the Burley Gallery. He felt very strongly that the material displayed there and also held locally in various venues, should be available for everyone to experience on a permanent basis in our own museum in the village.

After the exhibition, he presented his initial plans to Jennie Burgess, who fully agreed with them. The exhibition he had visited was connected to a degree course she was taking at Kent University at the time, so she suggested that he wait until she had completed it before furthering his plans. To this he agreed.

From the end of 2001, he became the driving force in what was to become a fully recognised charity by the first week in September of 2003. It received its Charity Commissioner's number just a few days after Derek's death on August 31st. His enthusiasm and dedication have kept us all going and we shall miss him greatly. However, the Trust that he has set up can now move forward under its own momentum. With an equally dedicated band of like-minded people, whom Derek had gathered around him, we now aim to achieve his vision of a Birchington Museum in the not too distant future.