

A Message from the Management Committee

Dear Friend,

As you no doubt know, the decision was made to close the Woodbridge Museum on 16th March as a result of the lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We have not yet been given formal permission to open again but we have been monitoring the situation and decided that with the 2 metre social distancing it would not be possible to conform to the rules anyway.

From 4th July opening will be allowed for museums but they have to comply with the 1 metre social distance and one-way system, so we must make alterations to the layout within the existing framework. This will take some time so we are looking into new designs to allow for this. The next lockdown release will be 1st Aug. After this time the management will look at trial openings during the Autumn & Winter weekends, subject to H.M.G. directions

We have therefore made the difficult decision to stay closed until the end of the year. We are hoping to open for Christmas and in the New Year would be back to winter opening, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the summer opening in April.

We are hoping that the Thomas Churchyard exhibition will be moved forward by a year to April and May 2021 and look forward to that.

While we have been closed, we have been looking at introducing a cashless purchasing system and bar code reader which we hope will be ready for use by the time we re-open. Even before the closure we were finding several people wanting to pay by card and they didn't carry cash. This did mean that we lost sales and donations, so introducing a card paying system was already on the agenda. Since then, of course, things have changed and people have got used to paying with a card and we are sure there will be more demand for it. For those of you who are stewards, training on the new system will be given.

We have a good number of wonderful people who are already stewarding for the museum but we still need more. If we are going to make more use of the room upstairs, now called The Gallery, we may need at least two stewards on duty at times. At the moment we cannot do this. If you could spare a little time to help, please get in touch with Hazel Richards, hazel.richards@talktalk.net or on 01394 383795. You can choose when and how often you would like to steward and do not have to do regular days or times.

We will keep you in touch, we value your support of the museum. Stay safe and we look forward to being able to welcome you visiting the museum very soon.

Regards,
Brian Higgs
Chair
Woodbridge Museum Management Committee.