

# FRIENDS OF WOODBRIDGE MUSEUM

## Spring Newsletter May 2020



### Chairman's News

Dear Friends,

By the time that you receive this Newsletter it will probably no longer be Spring but Summer. Who would have thought it would be late when we have been on Lockdown for 10 weeks with 'nothing to do'? I seem to have been very busy indeed and lots of longstanding jobs have been done, my cooking has got more adventurous and the garden is looking good. Nevertheless, we have all had a lot on our minds.

I was heartened by an email last week from the Museum of London reminding everyone that there have been serious pandemics before. They mentioned, for London alone,

The Black Death, 1348-51 with c35,000 deaths.

The Great Plague of 1665 with c100,000 deaths,

Smallpox 1760-65 with c15,000 deaths,

Cholera 1831-2 with c45,000 deaths,

Influenza 1918-19 with c18,000 deaths

AIDS 1981-2018 with c40,000 deaths

but we have come through in the end. Vaccines and treatments have been found.

Not that this makes our present situation any easier at the moment. Just that there is hope.

I was very sad to have to send an email to everyone this week confirming that all talks and visits this summer have had to be cancelled and I will refund ticket money. My aim is to rebook everything for next year. However, Gill Notcutt would like to hold the Garden Party in September if this be at all possible. My thanks to everyone who has renewed their subscription. We are still about 70 short so I attach a renewal form if you have not yet done so.

The news from the Museum is, of course, limited as you will see from Caroline's comments but the good news there is that East Suffolk Council have awarded us a grant of £10,000 to cover the fact that we have not been open. This will be of great help towards covering our expenses.

Best wishes to you all, Anne Merrett. Chairman of Friends. 30-v-20

### News from the Management Committee.

John White has been keeping an eye on the Museum during the lockdown - all is well there. He and I had a meeting recently to discuss how we might eventually reopen. It would be important to respect all the rules in force and make both visitors and stewards feel safe. We are in no rush and will communicate in due course as the easing increases.

Some work goes on. The Collections Team is busy catching up on a big backlog of cataloguing and is making good progress both on cards and electronically.

We have been updating the website and people have got in touch from Canada and New Zealand offering Woodbridge-related artefacts. If turning out your cupboards is on your lockdown to-do list, do keep an eye out for any pieces of Woodbridge history.

One of the first things we hope to do when we reopen is to display some recent acquisitions and showcase some wonderful mediaeval armour. We also hope to set a new date for the postponed Thomas Churchyard exhibition.

Best wishes to everyone in the Friends and we look forward to welcoming you all back at some point whether as stewards or visitors.

Caroline Matthews. Vice Chair