

Friends of Woodbridge Museum

Newsletter December 2021

Dear Friends

Programme for 2022

Attached is the programme for January to May. It is on a separate sheet so you can run it off and pin it on your notice board. We hope you will find it interesting. The numbers for the monthly meetings are very low at the moment but we hope that they will pick up in the New Year. Chairs are spread out so there is social distancing. When possible, we have windows and doors open and we ask people to wear face coverings unless exempt.

Membership.

As part of our becoming more closely aligned with the Museum, we have been asked to move our financial year to start in 1st April. It formerly started in January. This makes it easier for the Treasurer. This means that we will not be asking for membership fees until March.

Happenings in the Museum

Group Visits.

5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts visited the Museum in October. They did various Activity Sheets, tried writing on slates and followed the Mariner's Cat Trail round the Museum. They commented that it was 'a brilliant museum and they had an interesting, enjoyable time'. Liz Wood

On 25th November we had a visit from Deben Probus (a men's luncheon club) and Ufford Historical Group. A total of 33 visitors came that morning and enjoyed their visit.

We hope to contact other groups

A provisional visit is planned for U.3.A. Tonbridge to visit all 3 venues on the riverside in March. Brian Higgs.

If anyone knows of a school or other groups that would like to visit the Museum they can contact Liz on lizawood@btinternet.com to arrange it.

The Thomas Churchyard exhibition which had to be postponed in 2020 because of Covid 19, will take place in May and June 2022. If anyone would be interested in stewarding at this exhibition, please get in touch with John White enquiries@woodbridgemuseum.com

Opening over Christmas.

The Front of House committee decided that we would open during the week before and after Christmas. This covers the school holidays. So we will see how it goes. Bring along your grandchildren if they are in need of something to do.

Christmas opening

20 th to 23 rd December	open
24 th to 26 th December	closed
27 th to 31 st December	open
1 st & 2 nd January	open

Curator's Corner



One of the paintings under consideration for next year's planned Thomas Churchyard exhibition is this scene of a watermill. Can anyone help us to identify its location? It is one of at least three views of the same mill to have been painted by Churchyard, most of whose work was inspired by scenes close to where he lived in Woodbridge and Melton.

The mill building has a tiled roof and white weather-boarded walls upon a brick base. The waterwheel appears to be internal to the building, perhaps undershot, and the volume of water in the tail race emerging from the arched culvert seems

relatively small. There may have been a millpond situated behind the building. There is the suggestion of a mill house behind the trees to the left of the mill.

As all Woodbridgians know, some mills have very long lives and distinctive profiles. Others nestle in the landscape, half-hidden by trees. Their sites may become industrialised. Some lose their original function and become family homes. A few are demolished and are known only from documentary sources or old photographs. Who can tell us more about the fate of this mill? If you think you can, please contact me.

Elizabeth Clutton
depcurator@woodbridgemuseum.com

So it just remains for me, on behalf of all of the committee, to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Hazel Richards. Chair