

# Friends of Woodbridge Museum

Newsletter August 2022

Dear Friends

Attached is the speaker meeting programme for September to December. All meetings are held in the Community Hall, starting at 2.30pm. We think we have a good programme of speakers and hope you will enjoy the meetings. The first one on **Sept 9<sup>th</sup> is 850 yrs of the Tide Mill**, the talk we had to postpone in January.

We have rebooked the **visit to the Apothecaries Hall in London for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. You do not need to have come to the talk by Nick and Liz Wood earlier in the year, to visit the Hall. It looks really interesting so you are welcome to join the tour.

We expect that there will be spaces on the coach, for anyone who is interested in visiting London and doing their own thing for a few hours. St Paul's and the Museum of London are a short walk away, Covent Garden and Oxford Circus are a short distance on the underground from St Paul's station. River trips from Blackfriars Pier. The South Bank across Blackfriars bridge. Application form attached.

**The Day School on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>** is the last in the series of talks given by Dr Andrew Lacey who, I think everyone who has attended will agree, has given us a really fascinating gallop through history over the last few years.

We are lucky enough to have managed to book Mark Mitchells for the Christmas talk. A very popular local speaker, I am sure he will be very entertaining.

Please show this programme to your friends. We would love to get the numbers in attendance back up to the level we had before Covid hit. This meant that we easily covered our costs. The cost of speakers has risen but we would like to be able to go on providing good speakers for you, so the more people we have coming to the talks the better.

## **Membership renewal.**

The rate of renewal of membership of the Friends has been a little disappointing. Before the pandemic we had 208 paid up members. At the moment, we have only 145 members. We hope you will renew if you haven't already done so. Attached is an application form

If renewals have not been received by the end of September, we will be deleting them from the list.

-

## **Reports from the museum.**

-

## **VISITS TO THE MUSEUM – Education Team**

It has been a pleasure this Spring and Summer to be able to welcome to the Museum groups from various organisations. We have had visits from Ely and Tonbridge U3A, Ipswich Boundless and several retiree church groups, including from Woodbridge Quay Church. The Museum also opened early to host members of South Suffolk Classic Car Run before their event started.

Sometimes the groups have visited the Museum as part of a tour of all three historic venues including

the Tide Mill and Long Shed. A couple of groups asked if they could have a walking tour of Woodbridge after their Museum visit and this was an ideal way of re-enforcing the people and places introduced to them in the Museum.

Dove History Group had a special interest in cartography and were very appreciative of the efforts made by the Collections Team, to display material for them.

Groups have commented how enjoyable and informative they found their visits and appreciated the warm welcome they received. Many said they would return bringing other family members with them. If Friends belong to Groups whom they think would enjoy a pre-arranged Museum visit do please get in touch, you will be very welcome. Liz Wood

**Stewards.** The museum could still do with more stewards. Our aim is to be open every day but this is not always possible as we don't have the staff to cover all the shifts. We have had to close on two or three occasions at the last minute. If you would like to join the team of stewards please contact Caroline Peeke [caroline.peeke@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.peeke@gmail.com)

We also need some more people to join the Front of House cleaning team. A professional team comes in once a month to do a deep clean so the responsibilities of the Museum team are not onerous. Contact Liz Wright [e.wright158@btinternet.com](mailto:e.wright158@btinternet.com)

**Museum.** Numbers of visitors to the museum have been very good since we opened up for 7 days a week in April. Since the schools have broken up for the summer we have had many more children and it is nice to see that Granny gets dragged in on more than one occasion because the grandchild wants to come back. We frequently get over 100 visitors in one day and on one occasion we had 190 people through our doors. We must be getting it right.

We hope you are keeping well and enjoying life, hopefully, getting back to what it was before pandemic. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Speaker Meetings for the Autumn season.

With best wishes from the committee.

Hazel Richards	Chair
Liz Wright	Secretary
Louise Crich	Speakers and Treasurer
Mike Cullington	Finance