

marlow museum

www.marlowmuseum.org Reg. Charity No. 1129346

Affiliated to the Association of Independent Museums

MEMBERS' & FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021



With thanks to MyMarlow

The question everyone is asking:

When will our Marlow Museum reopen?

Answer - 2PM WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

(provided Step 3 of the roadmap has been reached.)

We'll then continue with Wednesday 2-5pm,
Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm as before.

Volunteers returning?



We hope that you have had at least one vaccination now and are feeling safer for the future.

Rota

Barbara will shortly be looking for Volunteer Stewards and Duty Managers to fill the regular three afternoons of our Summer schedule from May 19th onwards.

Or can we do more afternoons than this?

It will be good to get back, won't it? Just the forward clock change and Easter to get through, and second vaccinations. Covid rules will still apply but we are all used to that now. A good Spring clean first of course. So let your family and friends know.

During the 'closed season' we have been working hard at many jobs and discussing ideas.

Becoming a CIO

We expect to start operating as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st May, the start of our new financial year, although this will not affect the day-to-day operation of the museum, which remains registered with the Charity Commission. From that day on you will notice a new Registered Charity Number on our headings and we will be operating under the new Constitution approved at the last AGM.

Accreditation



Additionally, we have applied and been accepted as 'WTA', that is, officially 'working towards' Museum Accreditation with the Arts Council – a process that must be completed within 3 years. Achieving Accreditation means we have reached a national quality standard for museums and gives us the ability to borrow from other collections and access more grants. It's well worth doing.

Internship



To aid us in preparing for Accreditation, we are engaging a final year student from Reading University, Kaitlin, on a twelve weeks part time internship, from mid-April to the beginning of July. She will be paid through a 100% grant to the

Museum from the University. She will undertake an analysis of our current ways of working set against the Accreditation Guidelines and report to us which actions we need to take to meet those quality standards.

Museum Mentor



Now that we are working towards Accreditation, we are very pleased to have found, with the help of South East Museum Development Programme, a Museum Mentor, Brendan Carr, who is Community Engagement Curator at Reading Museum. We have signed an agreement with him and he will act as our museums expert, voluntarily, to guide us through the Accreditation process.

Business Plan

We have also been reviewing our Business Plan and taking account of the effect of Covid on our projections. The plan will be updated during the next few months.

Legacies?



We are aware that if we want to grow the museum and move to larger premises within central Marlow, we will need a much larger income. We think it's possible that some of our supporters feel so passionately about there being a good museum in Marlow that, after of course providing for their family, they might consider leaving a gift to the Museum in their will. It happened in Amersham, so why not in Marlow?

Non-Stewarding Volunteer roles

We are keen to spread the work that the Trustees do, as well as opening up further opportunities for members to help out. We fully appreciate all our volunteer stewards: maybe some have skills we could use in other ways in the museum?

We have recently recruited Lee Mathers from REACH Volunteering to aid with Fundraising and he is already making a positive contribution.

We now need

- someone to assist with **digital/social media communications**
- an **Assistant Secretary** to work with our Hon Secretary
- a **librarian** to catalogue and look after all our reference books etc.
- a group of people to do **research and help put together text and pictures for our exhibitions.**
- someone to **manage our collection**, ensure all the artefacts are catalogued properly and maintain the Excel database.

It does not mean attending committee meetings and much can be done from home. What do you think? Give me a call for a chat about any role.

Suggestions

We would be delighted to hear about any ideas or suggestions you might have about your museum. We have not forgotten about improved or enlarged premises, quite the opposite.

We are looking at how to improve public awareness of the museum and how to attract more families and the younger generation.



We hope to stage a number of outside events in the Summer and to spread our wings in the town and in the district. Marlow is a lively place and we aim to be an active part of it.



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