

Blake Museum Forward Plan Review March 2011

Key Aims

These aims represent threads that guide and bind the work of volunteers and the Governing Body over the three year period covered by this Forward Plan.

- A1** to improve the accessibility of the collections to visitors and a worldwide audience
- A2** to develop new interpretations and displays
- A3** to improve the care of collections through better storage and environmental control
- A4** to refocus the content of the collections to reflect more accurately the purpose of the Museum
- A5** to become the centre of excellence for the study of the local history of Bridgwater and its people
- A6** to improve the street signposting to the Museum
- A7** to encourage volunteers to develop skills of benefit to the Museum and thereby to enhance their enjoyment of their voluntary efforts; to work with others to increase the volunteer base

It is the nature of voluntary work that realisation of aims depends upon the availability and skills of volunteers over time. This plan therefore does not prescribe timescales for achievement of key aims. It is expected that measureable progress will be achieved for all Key Aims over the three period. Achievements will be reviewed jointly by the volunteer group and the Governing Body at least annually.

Guiding Practical Objectives

| Obj | | Links to P and A |
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| O1 | Develop website for display of downloadable digital images <i>bridgwaterphotos.org.uk</i> ready for end March 2011. Online details of symposium on Bridgwater Castle | P1 A1 |
| O2 | Create Virtual Museum <i>Developed at bridgwatermuseum.info and being added to; all major collections areas now covered</i> | P1/2 A1 |
| O3 | Install PZT cameras to upper galleries with joystick or computer control from ground floor <i>Done. Joystick control not available, but cursor control on networked computers. Consideration being given to extending CCTV to R2, R4 and R6</i> | P1/2 A1 |
| O4 | Refurbish upper galleries including exhibition of new/ .stored material; provide new services thereto <i>Selective refurbishment of parts of Maritime and Bygones Room; new Gallery Store brought into use; two long case clocks displayed</i> | P1/2 A2 |
| O5 | Install networked monitoring of R _H / temperature and improve environmental control <i>Long term automatic recording still to be implemented. Photometric measuring instruments purchased and in use; regular monitoring to be improved.</i> | P1 A3 |
| O6 | Install HWR system from electric boiler with fully zoned thermostat control <i>HWR installed in Gallery and Battle Rooms Provision left for extension to Bygones and Maritime Rooms, which remain heated by off-peak. Better control of on-off timeswitched zones to reduce electricity consumption during shutdown period.</i> | P1/2 A3 |
| O7 | Install roof insulation <i>Done in P1</i> | P1 A3 |
| O8 | Bring back into use Old Mill store for Archaeological and other reserve collections ex Colley Lane <i>Achieved August 2010. Plans being drawn up for lean-to between main doors and store for implementation in P3</i> | P1/2 A3 |

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| O9 | <p>Complete new catalogue, compile location index, review content, rationalise/dispose of duplicate and inappropriate items; identify and action urgent conservation work</p> <p><i>Catalogue transferred to FilemakerPro, and licensed for five computers. Archive boxes in R28 being checked against catalogue. Carnival entries nearing completion of checking and items loaned to Carnival Centre in Town Hall; duplicate items rationalised for disposal. Approx one third of items in R5 checked with catalogue and accessioned/added . Four paintings identified for conservation expected back for 31.3.11. Six display cases purchased for ground floor and displays improved for Blake & Bridgwater rooms. Further conservation work indentified for Blake Chest and Spaxton Mosaic.</i></p> | <p>P1/2/3 A3 A4</p> |
| O10 | <p>Compile definitive web-based and other biographical resources on great men and women of Bridgwater; improve Museum Library facilities</p> <p><i>New bookcases and books obtained for Library. Sorting and cataloguing needed. Two of the Curators have contributed to the independent website http://www.bridgwaterscientists.org.uk</i></p> | <p>P1/2/3 A5</p> |
| O11 | <p>With agreement of Local Authorities, erect Museum sign on north wall of Old Mill and improve direction signs on streets</p> <p><i>Street signage improved. Quotes obtained and contact about to be let. LB and advertising consents to be sought.</i></p> | <p>P1 A6</p> |
| O12 | <p>Strengthen the volunteer base through well-structured inclusive initiatives to attract and retain volunteers; provide sensitive appropriate high-quality training; widen the network of contacts that encourage volunteers; enhance the friendly and welcoming atmosphere; provide better facilities for volunteers in Room 4 and elsewhere</p> <p><i>Planning initiatives being considered for improved facilities in kitchen area. Volunteer team has transformed the garden making it a pleasant place to sit and enjoy.</i></p> | <p>P1/2/3 A7</p> |

26 February 2011