

Lowestoft Museum, Broad House, Oulton Broad.
Report to Annual Meeting of Lowestoft Town Council, March 2nd 2021

This report will be shorter and less varied than that given a year ago for just as all preparations for re-opening at Easter 2020 with family activities, Saffron Dingers and the long awaited Somerleyton Bronze Hoard on loan from the British Museum, the first lockdown was announced and everything was put on hold.

During this enforced closure our 35 volunteers were consulted about stewarding but only a few volunteers felt secure enough to do so, during the summer when Suffolk was in Tier 2. After some discussion by the Management Committee to institute a safe system for visitors, it was decided that re-opening was unviable.

Even so, a large amount of work carried on with a regular team re-furbishing displays and decoration. Adding new acquisitions to the digital catalogue continued and most importantly, preparing for the next accreditation with a new business plan proceeded steadily. The new infra-red heating installed by OBPC was operating well and helping to dry out areas affected by damp from the water in the cellar. An architect is developing plans to deal with this problem.

While that is proceeding, work on converting the old flat in Broad House for use by OBPC is under way and the 2 rooms kindly given to the Museum will be converted into a large space for use as a meeting and education room as well as for display purposes.

Patricia Day, our Museum Project Officer has been assisting our proposals and has also developed designs to upgrade the presentation of the Lowestoft Porcelain.

During the summer and coinciding with Heritage Open Days in September, she held fossil information days just outside the entrance using items from the Museum and her own collection. Another activity which involved the Museum and outreach was when a group of students, organised by "Common Ground" as part of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 250 project, visited to gain inspiration from the exhibits on which to create six video presentations, one called "Flip the Museum", is available online.

We are very much looking forward to opening in 2021 whenever conditions and regulations allow.