



Newsletter April 2019

Another year has passed and it is time to remind everyone that the museum will re-open, with an exciting new exhibition called "Revealing the Past", on Wednesday 1st May, and will run until 29th September.

Opening times are from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday each week, plus Bank Holiday Mondays. In addition, during July and August the museum will be open from 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

Admission charges remain the same: free entry to members of the Museum Trust and children under five years old, 50p for school-age children, and £1 for adults. Excellent value!

What will you see in the exhibition this year? The displays will be very varied, and include those featuring the local Sea Cadets and interesting finds from local metal detectorists. A particularly colourful display will centre on stained glass windows, including those in local churches.

This August sees the one hundredth summer show being put on by the Mersea Island Horticultural Society, and one of the museum displays will feature something of the society's history, including photographs and memorabilia from former show winners. Come along and see if your family won some prizes!

Also featured will be local survivors of WW I and the start of WW 2, including evacuees to the island.

Other displays will be based around the local red hills and fish traps, while inevitably the Romans are in the museum again. Younger visitors will no doubt also find the displays of bones and fossils found locally of particular interest, including skeletons and bones from

ancient bison, wild boar and mammoths. This year there will also be some additional small exhibitions – one entitled "Searching Mersea", and another about the Essex Native Oyster Regeneration Initiative.

Sadly, it seems that the boards from the bronze Age walkway found at East Mersea are still undergoing conservation work and so will not be with us till the autumn. However it is hoped to include some of the artefacts found by Citizen during their excavations. The group has recently received more funding for work which will include the Blackwater, so we await further news of this.

The museum is not all about the exhibition, however. On Wednesday 15th May our volunteers will be opening the historic Mersea Barrow on East Mersea Road during the Scouts' Open Gardens Day. During the weekend of 15th June a special mini exhibition of some work of local artist Leslie French will be held. There will also be another "finds Saturday" on 13th July, when anything of interest found locally can be brought to the museum for examination and discussion.

And finally, don't forget the Saturday afternoon walks, currently led by Pat Kirby and Alan Mogridge, which are not only of interest history-wise, but also offer a bit of gentle exercise and some amusing asides. The walks will start in early June, every Saturday except 17th August and 14th September. Walks start at 2.30pm with a donation of £1.50p per person. Just turn up at the museum, no booking needed.

More information about the museum and its activities on our website:

www.merseamuseum.org.uk