



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At last some good news to report! As the roadmap is going as planned we have set a date of Friday 2nd July for the re-opening of the museum, closing on Sunday September 26th. Things will be a little different this year with a shorter season and opening hours which will be Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5pm.

We will be following all necessary guidelines which will include taking visitors' contact details for Test and Trace. Adults will almost certainly be required to wear face coverings. There will be a one-way system around the museum to avoid crowding, with a separate entrance and exit, plus increased ventilation. For hygiene purposes there will be no audio guides and visitors will be unable to use the computers. To avoid cash handling the shop will be closed but as a bonus there will be **FREE ADMISSION** for everyone this summer. We realise that these restrictions will be disappointing for some, but we hope visitors will understand that it is for everyone's safety and we will be back better than ever next year!

Summer exhibition

This season our new exhibition is "Time and Tide – the changing face of Mersea." Displays will include material from CITIZAN on the coastline around Monkey Beach and Cudmore Grove, with the possibility of self-guided walks in these areas. The Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative (ENORI) will have an enhanced display with an audio visual element. The exhibition will also cover changes to the Esplanade and beach over the years, plus a celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the school buildings. There will be some new archaeological finds and much more of interest.

More good news - the boards from the Bronze Age walkway are being collected in early May, but before they can be displayed in the "hole in the floor" the special reinforced glass must be ordered and fitted, so they may not be ready in time for the opening. We are also waiting for news about the Bronze Age cremations that were found at East Mersea in the summer of 2019 and were being conserved by students from UCL.

It seems likely that we will be without the items from the barrow and child's cremations this summer as Colchester Museum wants to loan them back for a special exhibition "Decoding the Roman Dead" but there might be some interesting news about further analysis that has been carried out. We must wait and see.

Membership

Please note that we will not be collecting the annual membership subscriptions this year and if anyone who pays by standing order would like a refund, please contact us at info@merseamuseum.org.uk We have missed two AGMs but hope to hold one later in the year and it is intended that an autumn programme will go ahead in some form.

Finally, you will find the latest news in our two local publications and also on our website www.merseamuseum.org.uk

We very much look forward to welcoming everyone back. See you in the summer!