



Eden Valley Museum Trust
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered Charity 1209505

President: Alan Smith

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EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT TO ETC Re: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

19 May 2025

Following a challenging year, during 2024-2025 museum volunteers have continued to provide a full service to our visitors as well as outreach to local community groups. Our overall visitor numbers increased from 2628 in 2023 to 2904 in 2024. We held six children's activity sessions, and six are again planned for 2025. We put on two temporary exhibitions and also hosted an anniversary exhibition for Edenbridge Players. Our research and enquiry team were very busy dealing with 49 enquiries which led to four new memberships. Our museum shop is attracting increased visitors as it focusses on supporting local businesses and crafts people and now offers unique souvenirs of the museum and Edenbridge, and we continue to provide tourist information to visitors and during 2024-2025 we welcomed visitors from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia and the United States, as well as many returning locals and from the wider UK. We continue to support the Kent Wheels of Time initiative and badge scheme that encourages an interest in history by children. In January we welcomed several new volunteers, after several sadly passed away during the previous year.

During 2024 our Trustees set up a new Eden Valley Museum Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and at the end of March 2025 the unincorporated Eden Valley Museum Trust association was dissolved after all goods and chattels had been transferred to the new CIO Charity. The structure of the new organisation is a Board of Trustees and a Management Team made up of all volunteers actively involved in the day-to-day operation of the museum.

Following an invitation from the Arts Council for the museum to submit for re-accreditation, all of our processes and documentation were reviewed and updated and signed off by Trustees and our application was submitted at the end of March 2025.

In June 2025 the museum celebrates its 25th anniversary. Former Hon. Curator Jane Higgs MBE has returned as guest curator to work with curatorial volunteers on exhibitions celebrating the anniversary, leading to a celebratory event in late June for members and guests.

I very much hope that Edenbridge Town Councillors will appreciate the continuing hard work and commitment of our local volunteers and the benefits that the museum brings to the town.

Yours sincerely

Alan Smart

Alan Smart OBE
Chair, Eden Valley Museum Trust