

## **STROUD DISTRICT (COWLE) MUSEUM SERVICE**

### **Key Points from 2021/22**

**Museum Membership:** Year-long implementation project to create the membership, providing audiences with new and exciting opportunities to engage with the museum, extending community reach to new audiences, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the museum. Funded by Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation, funds allocated by Museum Friends, Stroud District Council. Join [Here!](#)



**Opening after lockdown** started with walled garden and shop in early May, followed by indoor areas, with the mansion being open for tours only due to risk to the collections and people. From late July mansion opened but several controls remained (which made returning to these recently straightforward). We took a flexible approach to events and exhibitions programme with a particular focus on outdoor activities. Overall, the team have managed this well and whilst visitor numbers are lower than pre-Covid we received some welcome and positive feedback from visitors.

**Rebuilding the Foundations:** A SW Museum Development project (funded by NHLF). By the end of March 2022, 8 Gloucestershire museums will have developed their knowledge and skills around audience development and volunteering, bolstering resilience and relevance at this uniquely challenging time.

**An Institute of Conservation's Collections Care Stimulus Grant** permitted work to be undertaken on one of the better-preserved examples of taxidermy in the collections.

**Ice Age Exhibition** grant from Arts Council England and match funding from Cowle Trust to borrow and customise an exhibition and create a bespoke learning package. [Ice Age](#) opens 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Sustainable Stories:** [Monthly blog](#) series which explored objects from the past which reveal useful lessons for a kinder, more sustainable, living in the present and future.

### **Headlines for 2022/23**

- Delivery and focus on Museum Membership following successful implementation.
- Continued recovery of museum programme (depending on Covid-19).
- Actions from heritage insider report (2020) and rebuilding the foundations (2021).
- Conservation and documentation actions towards strategic priorities (e.g. modern collections management system and collections storage).

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