

PRESS RELEASE

MUSEUM TO OPEN FOR SUMMER SEASON

Bognor Regis Museum is set to reopen this Saturday 2 July just in time for the summer season.

The all-volunteer heritage attraction usually opens just before Easter, but has been delayed this year due to building works to create a new exhibition area.

Bognor Regis Local History Society had hoped that the new area would be ready to open at the same time, but hold ups with the delivery of some materials means that this will now be opened later in the season.

The new area will house an original Bognor Bathing Machine and other holiday-related artefacts, which in turn will release space in the existing Museum to rearrange displays and perhaps create new ones.

New for 2022 includes a display of mementoes from previous Royal Jubilees; the welcome return of the popular model of the long-gone Riviera Lido Holiday Club at Nyetimber, and soaking up the sunshine in the front window, the sundial from Hotham Park. The timepiece is on loan from Arun District Council, having been removed from the park due to vandalism; there are plans to install a replica in due course.

Society Chairman Greg Burt said that volunteer stewards were anxious to get back to the museum and welcome visitors, adding “Not only do our stewards really enjoy meeting and talking to our visitors, but for many, volunteering is a key part of their social life. We are all so excited about the new exhibition area and can’t wait for it to open in hopefully a few weeks’ time; it will be a real gamechanger for the Museum in that we will be able to offer and do so much more.”

Another change this year, is the increase in the number of days that the attraction will be open. Pre-Covid, the Museum opened 6 days per week, 10am to 4pm. It was closed all through 2020 and in 2021 it only opened 3 days per week. This year it will open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday plus Bank Holiday Mondays. Greg Burt continued “When things have been closed, it takes some time to rebuild that momentum, so we are pleased to be able to open the extra day this year and hope to open even more days in the future, which is of course dependent on having enough stewards to help fill the 16 slots per week.”

To find out more about Museum stewarding, please contact the Museum.

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