

The Reimagining of Amersham Museum





Amersham Museum is an award-winning, small and independent museum, housed in a Grade II listed building in the centre of the historic Buckinghamshire town of Amersham, itself in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The museum collection tells the story of Amersham and the surrounding villages, starting with Roman times but with a particular focus on the development of the town from the medieval period to the present day. This is the story of the history of England, through the prism of one place. There is a social history collection of over 7,349 objects, documents and images, with further reference collections of maps and books and a collection of over 100 oral history interviews. The museum's building is the biggest and most significant object in the collection: part of a medieval hall house. It is the oldest domestic building in the town, with many fine architectural features and a mature physic garden which reflects the plants used by the house's original owners.

We have recently purchased the adjoining Victorian cottage in order to unite the two buildings and create a series of accessible spaces. New exhibition areas and imaginative interpretation will be created throughout the museum and part of the upstairs will be interpreted as an historic room setting. The reception area will be welcoming, light and spacious. Visitors will immediately be able to orientate themselves and will do research in this area, thereby creating a sense of energy and interest from the outset.

We want to renew and reimagine Amersham Museum's role as a local history museum which plays a dynamic and approachable role in the life of our local community and our many visitors. People and their stories will be at the heart of our work. We want to share their contributions and enable them to make their own interpretations through a new, wide-ranging, cultural programme of activities in our new learning space. We will be a centre for volunteering, for skills development and for formal and informal learning. Everything we do, including improving the care of the collection and developing the collection, will relate to this focus and will animate key parts of the story of Amersham and the individuals and communities who live nearby.

We are proud of our commitment to our museum and our town and are determined to deliver this £1,012m project, fully by the end of 2017. We have committed nearly £600,000 from our reserves but dare not deplete them further: they are as important as this project because they ensure our long-term financial stability, supporting every area of our activity including staffing, volunteering, learning activities and exhibitions.

That is why we are now working hard to raise the final £378,320 to deliver a fully, renewed and reimagined museum. I urge all our friends, supporters and local community to help us. Please join me in giving to Amersham Museum to help ensure it becomes the place it deserves to be. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Gotch".

Gary Gotch, Chairman





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www.amershamhistory.info