

## WHAT WILL THE FUTURE HOLD?

The world we live in is changing fast, particularly in the field of technology. This has already had a major impact on the museum, some positive but others might yet cause problems for the museum in the future.

In 2000 Google was in its infancy having only been launched in 1998. Wikipedia was not launched until 2001. Both have been invaluable research tools. Facebook, Twitter and many others have been launched in the last 20 years and are a great benefit to the Museum for publicity purposes.

Many artefacts in our collection come from local people finding 'treasures' in boxes and draws, often letters or photographs.

In 2000 51% of two way communications took place using the internet. A large number of letters, official communications, posters etc were still on paper and posted to individuals. By 2007 internet communication had risen to 97%. How will the Museum find the personal or official information in the future?

The first mobile phone that incorporated a camera appeared on sale in 2000. More photos than ever are now being taken but most are never printed. How will the Museum get access to any of them and build an archive for the future?

In 2000 the state pension age for women was 60 and 65 for men. This gave the voluntary sector a large well of fit and able volunteers to help run their projects. The pension age is already rising, what will the state pension age be in another 20 years time? Who will have the leisure time to help run the Museum, or visit it?

Will technology be our saviour?

Will Museums be just warehouses storing artefacts that are viewed on line and never need to be open to the public at all?

Will a visit to a museum mean putting on a 3D virtual reality head set?

**ONLY TIME WILL TELL**