



Management Report 2026



In June 2025 the museum celebrated its 25th anniversary and former Hon. Curator Jane Higgs MBE was confirmed as our new President. In August the renewal of our Full Accreditation status was confirmed by the Arts Council reflecting the high standards that our volunteers achieve in the operation of the museum and services to the community. Annual visitor numbers continue to increase; 2023: **2628**; 2024: **2904**; 2025: **3074**. During 2025-2026 our research team dealt with 31 enquiries and in January we welcomed several new volunteers interested in being involved in various aspects of the museum operation. In March we held a very successful fundraising Quiz at the WI Hall with questions and food organised by our members. The museum continues to open Wednesday to Saturday thanks to a well organised steward's rota and the wonderful team of volunteers who are here to welcome our visitors.

During 2025-2026 we put on several temporary exhibitions in addition to our 25th anniversary exhibition, including 80th Anniversary of VE Day, 80th Anniversary of VJ Day, The Story of Subbuteo and the Local Heroes Medal Display which includes a set of medals, one of which is a gallantry medal, acquired by the museum. These displays are curated by volunteers, and every effort is made to ensure the information and presentation is accessible to all. We are always interested in hearing from members and other local organisations who may be interested in putting on a temporary display. Object of Interest displays have included a 'Constantius II Bronze Centenionalis' which was researched by one of our younger volunteers and more are to follow.

In November we hosted a 2-day exhibition curated by year 4 from Four Elms Primary School and an abridged version remains on display upstairs in the High Street bedroom. Year 4 students were present on the Friday afternoon to talk to visitors about the exhibition. A lot of parents and children admitted this was their first visit! There have been visits by Edenbridge Cubs and Edenbridge Primary School Year 1 pupils made their annual visit to the museum. Our volunteers hosted the visits and were congratulated on their knowledge and friendliness. In May the Edenbridge Brownies and Guides visited the museum and the Guides are now preparing an exhibition to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Guides which will be ready for display in June or July. A variety of new exhibitions are currently under discussion.

During the summer of 2025 our knowledgeable museum guides led monthly walks around the historic centre of Edenbridge and a similar timetable is planned for 2026 starting 2pm on 13th June and at the same time on the 2nd Saturday in July, August and at 6pm in September.

The museum shop continues to focus on supporting local businesses and crafts people and offers souvenirs unique to the museum and Edenbridge; small 'pocket money' items have proved a huge success with our younger visitors. The shop also stocks a range of books covering the local area and its history. We provide tourist information to visitors from the local area, around the UK and from abroad. We continue to support the Kent Wheels of Time initiative and badge scheme that encourages an interest in history by children. We held 6 children's activity sessions during 2025-2026, and sessions have already begun this year. We provide regular outreach at the Wellbeing Centre located in the Edenbridge Medical Centre and at 'Talk Time' in Edenbridge Library. We also provide the Edenbridge magazine with a page of news and upcoming events. The museum participated in the 'Christmas Extravaganza Day' offering a drop-in activity session for children and adults in the afternoon. The museum's participation in 'Love Edenbridge Day' on 7th March welcomed 96 adults and 23 children with Eden Twinning providing French-themed children's activity sessions in the Buttery and Pantry.