



Blake Museum

Blake Museum Access Policy

Name of governing body: Bridgwater Town Council

Date this Policy was approved by the governing body: 16th March 2015

Policy review procedure: This Access Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once each year.

Date at which this policy is due for review: March 2016

Statement of Purpose

The Blake Museum Bridgwater is established:

- to rescue from loss and destruction the relics of our ancestors;
- to collect, preserve, conserve and to show relics of history relating (principally but not exclusively) to Bridgwater and its immediate surroundings;
- to show visitors that Bridgwater is not indifferent to its own history;
- to interest visitors in what has happened in Bridgwater since it was granted its first Royal Charter in the reign of King John;
- to give the townspeople of Bridgwater pride in their past;
- to reveal that great events have taken place within the town and adjacent areas and set them in the context of the history of England;
- to honour the lives of great men and women who have lived or been associated with the town, and, in particular but not exclusively, Robert Blake.

Policy Statement

The Blake museum is housed in a Grade 2* listed building, with the galleries covering two floors. The upper galleries have uneven floors and various changes of level. Access to the upper floor is by stairs only. Lifts or stair lifts cannot be installed due to the design of the stairs and the structure of the building. Wheelchair access is therefore restricted to the ground floor which is fully accessible by wheelchair users.

Access

The museum recognises that full access by all persons is essential. The museum will, where practicable:

- Give every assistance to wheelchair users and less advantaged persons, to view the collections.

- Upon request, and with sufficient notice, specific exhibits may be taken off of display or taken out of storage, and brought into a controlled viewing area. Such exhibits are to be handled in accordance with the Collections Care Policy. This is undertaken by a member of the curatorial team only.
- Requests for documents are to be handled in the same manner as previously stated.
- Upon request, allow viewing of the upper galleries by electronic means via the CCTV monitoring system. It should be noted that this viewing is limited and does not allow for the full viewing of the exhibits.
- Work towards installing a proper means of viewing the upper galleries, whereby access to all the exhibits will be available via an interactive display unit.

The following are available to view on-line:

Archaeology: Brooches

Archaeology: Medieval Tiles

Archaeology: Samian Ware *terra sigillata*

Archaeology: Spaxton Mosaic

Art: Oil portraits

Archives: Electors' Lists

Archives: War Records

Archives: Library

Entertainment: 1927 Pageant

Maritime: Docks and Irene

Numismatics: Coins

People: Chubb, Blake, Monmouth

Photographs: Photographers

Textiles: Baird Collection

Textiles: Banners

Textiles: 18th & 19th century Samplers

Textiles: Bridgwater Tapestry

Interpretations

The interpretations for exhibits use a standardised type face (Lydian BT) which is used throughout the galleries. Each is housed in a plastic holder and is placed in such a way as to make it easy to read from various angles. Larger type is used where the description has to be placed at low level, thus making it easier when standing, without the need to bend or crouch. Some interpretations are fixed to wall panels and display boards. Wherever possible exhibits and interpretations are placed at easy viewing heights.

There is a printed museum guide to take the visitor around the galleries. This describes what each gallery contains. Galleries are numbered and can be referred to on the included plan of the museum.

There is a printed information guide in relation to the Chubb collection, and from time to time other information leaflets are produced where required.

Guided tours can be arranged by request.

Visits by school parties are arranged by request and may include a themed topic.

A video show accompanies some of the temporary exhibitions. Not all temporary exhibitions allows for a video show.

A quiz for children is available and is offered to child visitors.

Themed activities for children is offered throughout the month of August, and this takes place on one day only of each week.

Access to the museum's library is by appointment only.

There is no public access to the object history store, photograph collection, photograph store, artefact storage or picture store.

Signature: Graham Granter
Chair of MSC

Date: 16 March 2015

Certified: Alan Hurford
Town Clerk

Date: 16 March 2013