

The Long Shop Museum Vision

This vision represents our inspiration; it will be the framework for our strategic planning. It is a statement of “where do we want to go?” – The desired or intended state of our organisation in terms of our fundamental objective



This word cloud has been created using all of the key words used by trustees, staff, stakeholders and volunteers when they were questioned on their ambitions for the organisation. The more a word was mentioned the more prominent it appears in the group word cloud.

The Long Shop Museum

The Long Shop Museum is a charity whose purpose is to preserve for public benefit the lands and buildings at the Richard Garrett Engineering Works at Leiston, Suffolk, and to further the education of the public by making the same available as a museum.

This vision was drawn together using information collected from trustees, management, stakeholders and volunteers, as well as from discussions with volunteers and staff and from visitor feedback.

Achievements so far

Restoration of historic buildings

25 years ago the Museum saved one of the country's most important industrial buildings, the grade II* Long Shop, opening this significant building to the public and creating a space where visitors can explore the history of both Garretts and the town.

18 years later it undertook the ambitious task of restoring the Loggia and the grade II listed Water Tower. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, this project cost over £250,000 and today houses the Museum's archive store and superb exhibition space.

Education and access

In 1998, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Museum was able to spend £150,000 building a fully accessible education room. Today this space is used as part of the Museum's active education programme as well as being used as a space to provide training for other museums and organisations.

In 2007 the Long Shop, together with eight other Suffolk Museums, worked with the Alzheimer's Society, a specialist reminiscence trainer and carers of older people to develop memory boxes that can be used in people's homes to encourage reminiscence and conversation. Three years on and these boxes are still actively being used.

In 2010, a grant of £20,000 from Activities Unlimited is allowing the Museum to encourage a group of young people with disabilities in a project that will teach them new skills and help them explore ways of interpreting our collections.

Restoration of collections

Throughout the Museum's 25 years it has successfully restored important artefacts and collections. In 1987, with support from the manpower services scheme it was able to restore the derelict threshing machine to full working order. In 1991 the Museum completed the restoration of its steam road roller, Consuelo Allen, which was discovered derelict in Ibiza and donated to the Museum by the Transport Trust.

In 2004 the Museum continued this success by rescuing Sirapite from a salvage yard in Kent. In March 2010 it completed a £100,000 restoration of this rare steam shunting engine. Sirapite had been the works engine between 1929 and 1962 during which time it was the only visible link between the engineering works and the community. A grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, matched by £50,000 raised by an extremely supportive community has made this project possible, together with an enormous dedication from volunteers who gave an impressive 2,500 voluntary hours.

Volunteer Development

Thanks to a grant of £20,000 from Renaissance East of England the Long Shop Museum has been able to employ a Volunteer Development Officer who has been successfully creating new opportunities for involvement at the Museum, including opportunities for young, vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The project is tackling the community's significant social needs by providing opportunities for people to learn new skills and interact with other volunteers.



The Vision

To create a museum of national significance with displays that are relevant for the 21st century and an exciting visitor experience that is accessible to everyone; an organisation in a position to strive for the preservation of local heritage, actively engaging the community and providing worthwhile opportunities for people, including for disadvantaged, vulnerable and young people.

This vision is underpinned by four individual aims:

1. To create an excellent visitor experience with interpretation and displays that are relevant for the 21st century

The Museum has an unrivalled potential in Suffolk to be able to cover stories and themes linked to current public concerns and interests, such as energy efficiency, fuel production, green issues and the effects of an industry on the community. A step-change in the way the Museum presents itself will make it more relevant for the 21st century and encourage an increase in visitors. Drawing large numbers into the town will boost the local economy and tourism in the area. New professional displays will also make the information within them more accessible to a wider number of people.



2. To maximise the Museum's social impact

The Museum is an important community space in the middle of a small town with significant social needs. The Leiston area has the highest rates of unemployment in Suffolk Coastal, the highest percentage of economically inactive people (37.6%) – 6.9% higher than the East of England average, and the highest percentage of people without any qualifications (31.9%) in rural Suffolk Coastal, 4% higher than the East of England average. The Museum is in a position to help combat these issues and aims to be part of a local solution to local issues.

We have for a long time given people the opportunity to learn and develop new skills. We aim to build on this and the potential for involvement, to support individuals in finding opportunities that suit their skills and interests and help them to identify areas for training and development.

3. To Encourage and support more active involvement in the museum

Volunteering is crucial to the Museum's capacity, not only to open but for its education programme, restoration, conservation and community activities. We aim to create new opportunities for volunteering that provide individuals with new skills, social interaction and increased confidence. Key to this is opportunities for young people. Active involvement will bring in new audiences and draw the community more closely into the Museum.

4. To preserve our built heritage and the stories and collections associated with it

Leiston's heritage is unique for this area, and the heritage in the Museum's care is particularly significant. It includes the Garrett family who were integral to the area's history; building Snape Maltings and much of Victorian Aldeburgh, and includes the first woman doctor, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. It is the focal point for the area's history and valued identity and a uniquely important industrial monument nationally. We aim to protect and preserve this heritage and further its use in supporting the Museum's vision.



We will pursue these aims by effectively working in partnership, being prepared to be innovative in our approach, offering equal access to everybody and actively supporting and developing our staff and volunteers.

Significance of the Long Shop

The Long Shop is the Museum's most significant building. Listed grade II* it is amongst the top 5.5% of listed buildings in the country. It is the first purpose built flow line assembly hall for portable steam engines in the world. It was built in 1852 following the success of the Garrett's stand at the 1851 Great Exhibition. The building's scale and proportions led workers to affectionately name it 'The Cathedral' and is today considered to be one of the most important industrial heritage buildings in the country. Original features such as the gantry crane, wooden floor blocks intended to cushion falling cast iron parts and the remains of drive shafts in the walls surrounded by oil staining make it easy to understand this space and imagine it in use. In the centre of the gallery is a large floor light-well, this together with the huge arched Victorian windows throw lots of light into this building – creating a wonderful atmosphere and a superb space for visitors.

Achieving the Vision

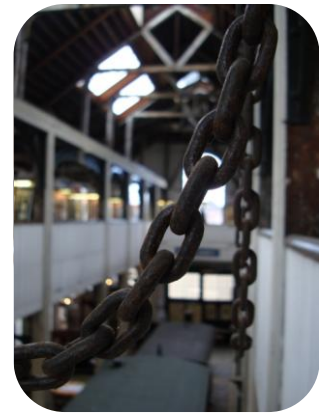
Three strands of development have been identified through which the Museum's vision can be achieved.

Restoration and Increased Access

The Long Shop is in need of significant repairs and restoration work. Large parts of the roof are failing and much of the historic brickwork needs replacing, windows are rotting, the walls are suffering from damp and much of the internal timber work is in need of replacement. The Long Shop is the corner stone of this museum, a building of national



importance, representing both the history of Garretts and of the town. We will fully restore this important piece of industrial heritage, protecting it for future generations. We will also improve access - creating level access into the building and installing a lift that will for the first time give everyone equal access to this important space.



Displays relevant for the 21st century

The Long Shop's existing displays are out dated and rely too heavily on written words to interpret collections and they do not prompt people to engage emotionally with collections or stories. We will create professionally designed displays that will for the first time interpret this building for visitors. We will create displays relevant for the 21st century, covering themes of current public interest such as fuel and power production, green issues and sustainable communities. The displays will focus more on human stories connected to themes and collections and will prompt people to engage with them emotionally.

Education and Participation

Throughout this project we will create opportunities for people to get involved, giving them the chance not only to discover their heritage, make decisions about and take ownership of their heritage, but the chance to learn new skills from it. Skills related to restoring historic buildings, related to interpreting an object, even skills related to teaching others. This will include creating worthwhile opportunities for vulnerable, disadvantaged and young people – giving everyone equal access to their heritage and at the same time developing new audiences and involving the museum more closely with the community. This project also holds the opportunity to link to science related themes and create a key stage related education programme around this. As part of this we will create a new short term post that will allow us to create a sustainable education programme that will ensure the museum becomes a valuable asset to schools, youth groups and under fives organisations.



Project Timetable

Year one (up to March 2011)

- Investigation into the short and mid-term maintenance requirements of the Long Shop
- Convene the project steering group
- Submission of a pre-application to HLF
- Carry out initial consultation with identified groups, including existing visitors
- Submit stage one application to HLF
- Devise design brief for potential architects and designers
- Complete small projects: Activities Unlimited

Year two (2011 – 2012)

- On receipt of HLF project development grant, appoint a Project Officer to work on stage two of the HLF application
- Project Officer to produce a business plan and through the external designers a design scheme
- Carry out further community consultation work to inform stage two HLF application
- Submit maintenance schedule to HLF
- Submit stage two HLF application
- A team of volunteers will carry out relevant research for display themes – directed by Project Officer
- Fundraising strategy is created and agreed, including identification of external match funding (10% of HLF grant), and community fundraising to support Museum's obligatory contribution (5% of total project costs)

Year three (2012 – 2013)

- HLF application successful and work can begin

Join the Adventure

We invite you to join us on this exciting adventure of developing the long Shop Museum into an attraction of national significance. You can help us to create a museum that is a fantastic visitor attraction and an important, inclusive community resource – tackling an area of significant social need and providing worthwhile opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Together we can create a Museum that enhances the tourism offer in Suffolk, boosting the area's economy by driving in tourists and enhancing local skills. With your help we can create a strong sense of local identity that ensures the area is a somewhere rather than just an anywhere.

We will draw on a range of expertise and create a steering group to maximise the impact and success of any developments. We will be carrying out consultation with the visitors, the community and stakeholders throughout this process to ensure we deliver what is needed, what is most effective and importantly – what is wanted.

We welcome people contacting us about our vision for the organisation and our proposals. If you would like to share your thoughts and ideas, or want to find out how you can support the Museum's ambitions you can contact us by:

Email: develop.longshop@googlemail.com

Phone: 01728 832 189

Or, by visiting our website:

www.longshopmuseum.co.uk



The Long Shop Museum brings people together:

We provide a safe, stimulating space to meet and participate in activities

The Long Shop Museum makes the area more attractive:

Historic assets give places a distinct identity and can provide attractive green spaces for people to enjoy

The Long Shop Museum contributes to our health and happiness:

We provide opportunities for sharing and encourage an active social life, particularly among older people

The Long Shop Museum enhances people's skills and helps to generate prosperity:

We offer learning and volunteering opportunities to people of all ages, while heritage-led regeneration can increase property values and the economic prospects of an area

The Long Shop Museum helps to develop identity and a sense of place:

Buildings and collections reflecting the history of the local community help existing and new residents understand and value the heritage of the place in which they live



The Long Shop Museum provides positive activities for young people:

We contribute to the extended schools programme and can work with pupils at risk of exclusion and youth offenders by engaging them with their heritage and that of others in their local community