

Application HG-14-00813 – Supporting document 8: Selection of illustrative images

1. “Although a local resident for seven years... I was scarcely aware of the Museum.”
“If you didn’t know it was there, you could just walk along and think, where is it.”
Guildford Museum’s entrance is on Quarry Street, a quiet street with little footfall. It has little presence or visibility and poor access.
2. “I came with a toddler in a pushchair. Access was difficult to the higher levels.”
“(I) could not easily access collections in furthest parts of the museum, difficult to negotiate steps.”
The Museum has no step free access and the temporary exhibition space and access to other areas is up steep stairs and through bottleneck turns
3. “The presentation of displays needs updating with, perhaps, more interactive features.”
“Nothing will have changed.” “It needs new life put into it.”
The Museum’s social history gallery. Though the overall impression of the Museum is welcoming and cosy, the displays are looking dusty and tired with no coherent story of Guildford.
4. “The Castle Gardens are a well used local amenity, especially used as a place to picnic, look at the view and spend leisure time.”
“Yeah, I don’t know any history of it (the castle) either. Even though I’ve been there with the school, I still don’t know any of the history.”
“Yeah, I definitely think the cafe bit would draw in more attention, like people on their lunch.”
Few visitors or local people are aware of the history and importance of the bailey buildings in the Castle Gardens and there is no interpretation or explanation of these standing ruins of the medieval Castle.
5. “This building is probably the King’s Chamber recorded as being under construction in 1155-56”

“The walls are in poor condition owing to the relatively delicate nature of much of the building stone and its prolonged exposure to the elements.”

The Kings Chamber, one of the royal apartments of the medieval castle, is vulnerable to weather damage and vandalism, inaccessible to the public and used as a dump for garden waste.

6. Museum activity, children’s Saturnalia activity

“You’re playing and you learn it as well, don’t you?”

“But if somebody’s talking to you and it’s a bit more fun, and yeah, like dressing up, especially for the younger kids.”

The activity was staged for children aged 10-13 as part of a Roman day taking place just before Christmas. The continuing message of free entrance and easy access will be key in the redeveloped site, as will letting families know that they are welcome with their children and that a visit to the gardens and café is an economic outing.

7. Museum activity, Zig Zag stories project

“Coming to this group has been a lifeline for me. It has helped me be a child again but also to be a grown up and have a voice. You surprise yourself with what you can do...”

“I am in a shell when I am at home, when I am here the shell opens.”

This project aimed to encourage members of local groups who specialise in mental health and art (Insight Art and Street Level Art) to be inspired by Guildford’s heritage sites and to produce concertina shaped books containing their own unique artwork.



1. Guildford Museum – current entrance on Quarry Street



2. Steps within the museum



3. The Museum's social history gallery



4. Medieval castle standing ruins



5. The Kings Chamber



6. Museum activity, children's Saturnalia event



7. Museum activity, Zig Zag stories project