

Good news from Waveney Heritage!

As you probably know we at WHC have been working for many months towards converting from a Community Interest Company to a Charity and we have finally achieved it!

As from 4th December we are now a fully-fledged charity. Our ambition to provide education and training, research facilities, an archive of the unique history, both cultural and geological, of the Waveney Valley, it's river, towns and villages has been recognised. It doesn't of course really change what we have been doing for the past three years but puts it on the most appropriate footing.

It also means that it will probably be easier to access grants and, very importantly, we will be given Business Rate Relief. We had a nasty shock in March when we were sent a letter informing us that we were liable for 20% of our business rates because the District Council was no longer prepared to exempt Community Interest Companies. This was a major problem because it was quite obvious that, at this early stage of our development, we simply could not afford it. The Council also stated that, had we been a registered charity, we would have been exempt! In the event, we didn't have to pay because we were excused under the Covid concessions but it certainly concentrated our minds on converting!

That process turned out to be much more involved than it once was and involved much heart searching, discussion and not least expense. However, also as result of the two Covid lock-downs of this year, we have received two government grants which have seen us through, paid the bills and kept the building in good order. We are of course looking forward to starting our programme of talks and also have a couple of exhibitions planned and a garage sale. All we need is things to return to more-or-less normal and of course the vaccine to work!

In the meantime, our very best wishes to all of you. Have as good a Christmas as possible and keep well!

All of us at Waveney Heritage