
Fwd: Reopening at Messums Wiltshire

Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 11:47 AM

To: Tisbury Parish Council <tisburyipc@gmail.com>

From:

Date: Thu, 11 Jun 2020 at 10:53

Subject: Fwd: Reopening at Messums Wiltshire

Dear Sandra

I would like to bring the new charges at Messums to the attention of Tisbury Parish Councillors. As you can see from this forwarded message about their re-opening, Messums intend to change from being a free-entry gallery to one which requires payment - i.e. an annual 'membership' of £30 per annum (or £50 for a family).

I believe that when Messums established their gallery in the Tythe Barn in Tisbury that the agreement was that there would be community benefit. Chiefly, that consisted of free entry to the gallery, which meant it became a free modern art centre as well as a restored living museum - the historic Tythe Barn that all could visit, both inside and out. This was a wonderful resource and, I believe, has attracted more visitors and tourists to Tisbury than we had before and probably greater footfall for other businesses and shops in Tisbury. It also has 'put Tisbury on the a map' in terms of art and has put us on a par with places like Bruton - which has the Hauser and Wirth gallery - which still seems to have a free entry scheme, although it is still closed at the moment.

I appreciate that Messums has probably lost money because of COVID-19 and is probably trying to recoup its losses by charging this membership fee but I don't think it is in the spirit of community or of working together as a village if Messums becomes just an exclusive club for the rich and excludes the rest of us.

I would like to see the Councillors discuss this matter and, if possible, put pressure on Johnny Messum to re-think.

With thanks