



Museum 4 Watton,  
Wayland Hall,  
Middle Street,  
Watton IP25 6AG

Supported by  
Watton Town Council

[info@museumforwatton.org.uk](mailto:info@museumforwatton.org.uk)

01953 797060  
[info@museum4watton.org.uk](mailto:info@museum4watton.org.uk)

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022**

As one would expect, the last twelve months have been very difficult for the Museum, however we have not been sitting round doing nothing. We opened and closed, and opened and closed to comply with government regulations, however things were stirring in the background. The Museum having run out of space was holding talks with the Town Council regarding the use of this room, the Council Chamber. In meetings leading up to late May 2021 it was agreed that there should be a joint project leading to the sharing of the room. Until now only used for two hours every fortnight and a few other odd times. Towards this end a budget of £50,000 was set, one half to be provided by the Museum, match-funded by the Council. A full structural survey has been done on the building and many elements of what was proposed were deemed to be necessary for the continued preservation of the building. So having raised the money, which, with gift-aid and vat reliefs amounted to £61,250, at our instigation, and with the approval of a Council sub-committee, we have;

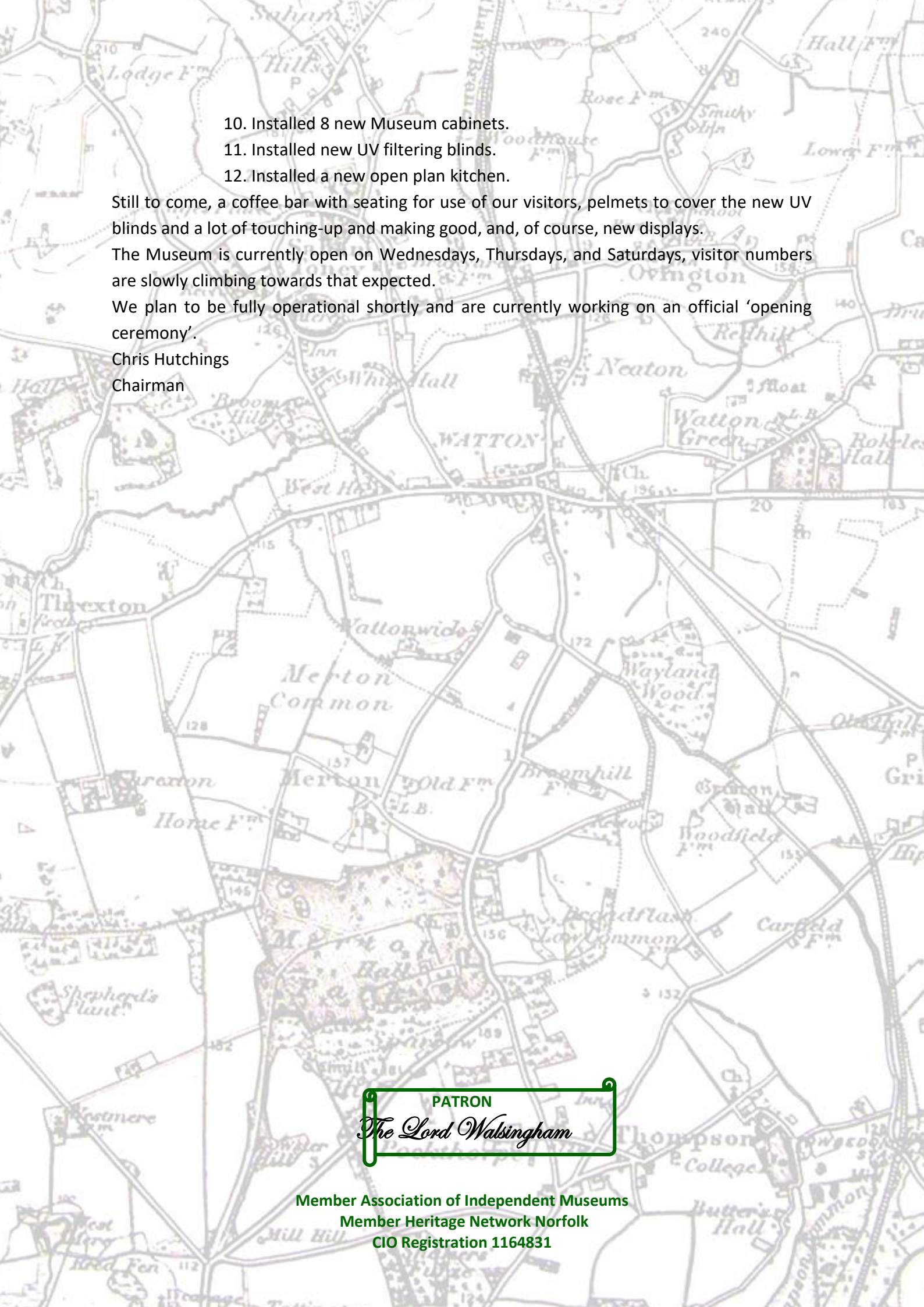
1. Demolished the old kitchen and store,
2. Replaced the flooring,
3. Re-wired with a new lighting scheme,
4. Re-plumbed with custom built radiator heating,
5. Re-decorated throughout,
6. Relaced virtually all the old furniture, the new 'stuff' is 118 years old!
7. Restored the various 'shields' on the gallery and overhead beams.
8. Fitted 'slatwall' to the rear of room to be used as a picture gallery.
9. Installed fitted cabinets to the rear of the room.

**PATRON**

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10. Installed 8 new Museum cabinets.
  11. Installed new UV filtering blinds.
  12. Installed a new open plan kitchen.

Still to come, a coffee bar with seating for use of our visitors, pelmets to cover the new UV blinds and a lot of touching-up and making good, and, of course, new displays.

The Museum is currently open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, visitor numbers are slowly climbing towards that expected.

We plan to be fully operational shortly and are currently working on an official 'opening ceremony'.

Chris Hutchings  
Chairman

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