



The IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST Limited Coalbrookdale Telford Shropshire TF8 7DQ
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KD/MD

5 July 2017

Mr R Lewis
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm
Frittenden Road
Biddenden
Ashford
Kent, TN27 8LG

Dear Mr Lewis

Re: Redevelopment of the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron

I write on behalf of The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust to thank you for the £5,000 which was donated by the Nineveh Charitable Trust towards supporting the Museum of Iron Redevelopment. I am now writing to report back to the Trust and to illustrate how much the grant has helped with this project.

The redeveloped Museum of Iron tells the wider story of the iron industry, putting in context the Coalbrookdale Company by exploring geology, the early iron industry and the modern steel industry. The redevelopment has been achieved through the refurbishment of the original building which has revealed previously hidden features, and also through the installation of new galleries and displays. Visitors are able to enjoy a chronological journey showing the ways in which the events at Coalbrookdale have changed the world. The new galleries highlight key figures from The Industrial Revolution, and new digital interactives help to bring the museum development 'up to date' and will encourage younger audiences to engage.

Key outputs will include an increase in visitor numbers, an increase in educational visits, improved access to our Designated Collections, improved visitor facilities, with learning opportunities for the local community and environmentally sustainable practices. The new museum uses our nationally designated collections as the central theme and displays them to greatest effect, using them to tell the story of Coalbrookdale. Redesigned exhibits make it easier for children to follow the chronology of the Industrial Revolution and include other key components of their curriculum, including social history, geology and art/design.

Our curatorial team have undertaken detailed research for the project, which has included selecting objects and materials for display, planning narrative themes, carrying out consultation with stakeholders and sourcing loan items for display. The display of pictures has been designed to rotate in order to avoid light damage and this will ensure the museum has a 'live' element.

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM

President: Mr. M J Lowe CBE DL Chairman: Mr. N B Williams Chief Executive: Miss. A E Brennan

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust is a limited company registered in England under the Companies Act 2006 Reg No. 918560 and the Charities Act 2011 Ref No. 503717-R
Ten museums in the beautiful Ironbridge Gorge, one of the United Kingdom's first World Heritage Sites



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Ironbridge Gorge
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986

A wide audience of beneficiaries will be reached through this redevelopment, including families, school and community groups, individual visitors and those who have a particular interest in the subject matter. People have been visiting from within the local area, supporting this project, but there has also been substantial interest and visits from those who have travelled from much further afield.

Initial visitor numbers have been strong and there has been some very positive feedback from visitors and stakeholders, including staff, volunteers and trustees. The Museum of Iron reopened on 8th April 2017 with subsequent visitor numbers being higher than those recorded for the same period of time during last year (a 20% increase approx. during the Easter period). The development has received positive feedback and has raised awareness of the work of The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. This has encouraged new audiences to engage with the museum and its work.

The support from The Nineveh Charitable Trust has made a significant contribution to the success of the Redevelopment of The Museum of Iron. It has enabled work to be completed to a high standard and for the building to be transformed with new galleries highlighting key figures from the Industrial Revolution, including the iron masters, the women and the workers. Industrial iron displays and ironmaking and iron processes are also showcased. Each floor of the building has been developed and shows the impact of the events at Coalbrookdale and how they helped to change the world.

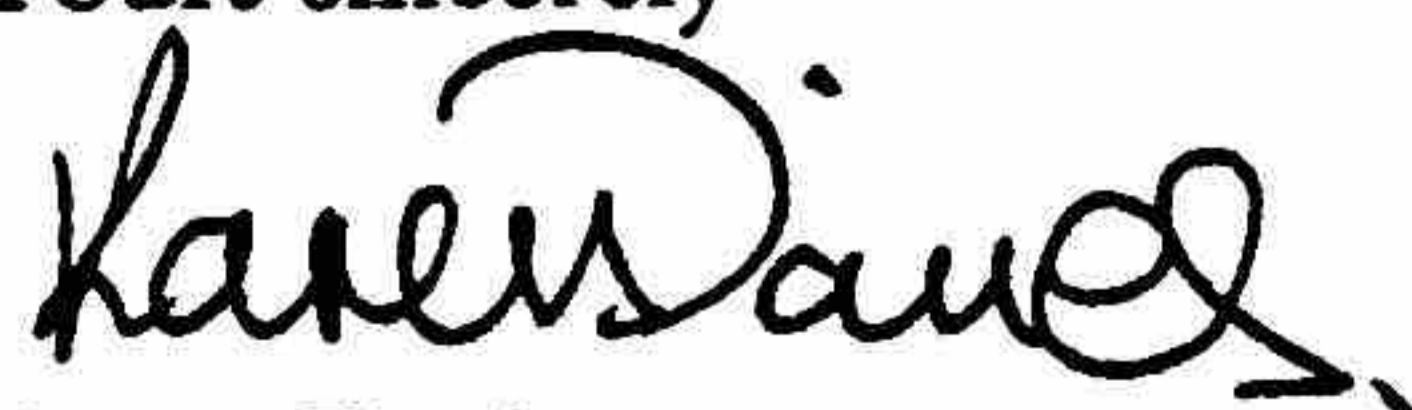
The newly developed museum will function as a centre for the wider study and interpretation of the Coalbrookdale Industrial landscape including the recently restored water courses. The landscape is an important one for historians and is also enjoyed by walkers and our local communities.

This has all been made possible by the generosity of donors, such as The Nineveh Charitable Trust and we are truly appreciative of your kind support. I have enclosed a few photographs of the redevelopment which help to show some of the work which has been achieved.

Plans are currently progressing with our Masterplan, which will celebrate the innovation that took place at Coalbrookdale in 1709 and which will educate and inspire future generations. If you are interested in hearing more about our further plans please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I would be delighted to explain our proposals and to show you around the museums. I can be contacted on 01952 435900 or by email; karen.davies@ironbridge.org.uk

Once again, thank you for your valued support.

Yours sincerely



Karen Davies

Director of Museum Redevelopment