Dear Chair, 5 December 2020

**Request for Grant**

We hope you will agree to support Bailiffgate with a grant to help us sustain our award-winning Museum and Gallery.

As an independent, charitable organisation we rely entirely on the income we generate ourselves. We are volunteer led and run, but we need financial support to meet the running costs to enable us to open 6 days a week, 49 weeks every year. We have some income from visitors and our shop, but we aim to keep our entry costs low to attract as many local families, visitors and tourists to the area as possible to learn about local history, heritage and visit our gallery.

From March 2020 we have all undergone experiences that none of us could ever have imagined. Although Bailiffgate, like so many other Museums & Galleries has been closed for part of the year, we have still been able to stage three exhibitions, run a Digital Lockdown project with local people (‘Heritage from Home’), add to our digital Collection, deliver some well attended workshops, organise a Halloween Ghost Hunt around Alnwick Shops and work on ways of continuing our Out of Town Museum oral history project in light of Covid restrictions.

In spite of the difficulties and closures, Bailiffgate has had a lot to celebrate this year and has been recognized and celebrated nationally, winning three awards this year:

* ‘highly commended’ by the Museums & Heritage Awards 2020 for our fantastic ‘100 Years of Fashion’ exhibition in the category of ‘Limited Budget Project of the Year’
* ‘highly commended’ by the prestigious British Museum Marsh awards with a ‘Volunteers for Museum Learning Award’
* ‘Travellers’ choice winner’ for 2020 from Tripadvisor.

In 2021, we are looking forward to a full programme of events and exhibitions, including our big summer exhibition ‘Vikings: Fact and Fiction’ - a myth-busting exhibition (delayed from 2020) in a unique collaboration with the people behind the JORVIK Viking Centre in York.

We would be delighted to visit your Parish Council to talk about our work and welcome any Councillors to Bailiffgate for a free guided tour in the New Year. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit.

Yours faithfully,

Jean Humphrys

Chair of Trustees

**About Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery**

Bailiffgate is an award-winning, independent, local Museum and Gallery, preserving and celebrating the heritage of Alnwick and district. Visitors explore over 10,000 years of local history and heritage and discover an exciting programme of temporary exhibitions. Bailiffgate is a hidden gem on three floors housed in a Grade 2 listed former church in the Castle Quarter of Alnwick. Children enjoy Mouse Hunts, dressing up, quizzes, colouring and learning hands on about Northumberland culture. Our shop has a wide range of local history books and gifts.

Bailiffgate supports local communities by providing displays, activities and resources, loans boxes for schools and care homes and offers a popular programme of heritage talks to local organisations, delivered by volunteers and professionals. We have a long track record of collaboration with local organizations and delivering community projects in several Parishes across Northumberland, supported by a range of external funders. In 2019 we began delivering a major three-and-a-half year project: the Out of Town (OOT) Museum in the Coquet Valley, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. OOT is celebrating the rural heritage of Coquetdale and is collecting and recording memories and stories told in local voices, along with photographs, audio, documents and artefacts. New heritage records will be created and archived within the Bailiffgate Collection and within Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn.

We are an accredited Museum under the Arts Council National Accreditation Scheme and have been recognised locally, regionally and nationally with awards.

We have a main website, a collections website, an OOT website and a You Tube Channel for uploaded films. Here are some links to our websites and social media:

[Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery](https://bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk/)

[Bailiffgate Collections](https://bailiffgatecollections.co.uk/)

[Bailiffgate TV You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPQ4BsUUxmp8ambGLZEAwEw)

[OOT Museum](http://ootmuseum.co.uk/)

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/bailiffgatemuse?lang=en)

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bailiffgatemuseum/)