

Case Study: Small Grant

In April 2020, MDEM launched a new round of Small grant funding to support museums, with an emphasis on responding to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Organisation: Chain Bridge Forge

Amount of grant applied for: £1500.00

Date of application: May 2020

Project Delivery: December 2020

In May 2020, Chain Bridge Forge made a successful application which enabled them to undertake work to increase the number of website views and to make the information held more accessible. It was hoped that as a result, it would generate more income. As part of this work, they introduced digital mapping to show the position of local heritage, as defined by Heritage Gateway, and it was hoped that the community would be able to explore this resource as the weather improved and the number of Covid cases reduced.



Delivering the Project

A web developer was hired to carry out the work, with the total cost coming to £2500. Populating the digital maps is an ongoing activity which is being carried out by volunteers. Redesigning the website went well but we also re-categorised the total collection. This activity has now broadly been done using the following categories:

- Articles (*heritage information*)
- Place (*maps & information on towns and villages*)
- People (*notable people*)
- Chain Bridge Forge – Blacksmithing
- Flower Parade (*a past Flower Festival*)
- Events
- Projects (*a place for the innovation projects we have conducted*)
- News

Key Challenges

We had particular problems in selecting and implementing a digital mapping solution. We wanted the solution to be owned by local community groups so cost was a significant factor, as well as ease of use. In the end we selected MapHub, a free solution which offers the basic requirements. Our thinking was that we could over-engineer the solution and find the community didn't like it. We plan to rollout the MapHub solution and then try and get some feedback on what is liked or not. If necessary then we will invest in a supported version but in the knowledge that it will meet their need.

Project Outcome

The website continues to be a stable platform with views increased to average of around 300 /day and allows us to continue with development. These new developments mean we have created a new website specifically for the forge at www.chainbridgeforge.co.uk and www.southhollandlife.com which is a new charity to promote arts and heritage in South Holland.

Innovation has also not been forgotten and this includes 360 degree tours and delivering Augmented Reality solutions all available on our Wordpress site. Our next drive is to improve web accessibility as defined by <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-usability-inclusion/> so that more disadvantaged groups can access our collection.