

David Dewing, Director of the Geffrye Museum of the Home, announces his retirement

David Dewing, Director of the Geffrye Museum, has announced today that he will be stepping down at the end of this year.

David Dewing said “The Geffrye is in great shape, and it has a fantastic future. I have loved working here and it has been an immense privilege. The Geffrye is such a special place, the buildings and gardens are a delight, the collections are endlessly fascinating and our theme of the home is inspiring to all. The trustees and staff share a common sense of purpose and commitment, working creatively to attract new and more diverse audiences and raising the museum’s standing both nationally and internationally. After 25 years as Director, I have chosen to retire now as this is a good moment to hand over to someone who can lead the museum through the next exciting stage in its development. I have no doubt the Geffrye will continue to thrive. For me, this is a new opportunity to spend more time on my research, travel and family.”

Dr Samir Shah, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said “David Dewing has been a tremendous Director. He has led the museum through a series of evolutionary changes whilst never losing sight of its unique qualities and charm. The Geffrye is now firmly established as the Museum of the Home and visitor numbers are at record levels. David has laid the foundations for a major capital development project which will allow many more people to benefit from all that the Geffrye has to offer. We are extremely grateful for his vision and all that he has done to make the Geffrye one of London’s best-loved museums, widely respected for its innovative learning programmes and the high standards of its displays and exhibitions. We wish him well in his retirement.”

Culture Minister, Ed Vaizey, said: “David Dewing has expertly led the Geffrye Museum over the past 25 years. He has increased the profile of the museum hugely and it is now attracting a record number of visitors. He has been a great asset for the museum and I would like to thank him for his fantastic work and wish him well for the future.”

The Board of Trustees will shortly begin its search for a new Director to start in early 2017.

Notes to Editors

1. For further information or to request an interview, please contact Nancy Loader on 020 7749 6026 or press@geffrye-museum.org.uk
2. Born in 1951, David Dewing studied design at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design and history at Birkbeck College, University of London. He began his career in museums in 1979 when he joined the Museum of London as a curator. He has been Director of the Geffrye Museum since 1991. David is also an Honorary Fellow of Queen Mary University of London and was Master of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers in 2015-16.
3. The Geffrye Museum explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Evocative displays of middle-class, London living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home-life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste. The museum is set in elegant, 18th-century almshouse buildings surrounded by gardens, in East London.
www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

4. The Geffrye is embarking on a major transformative capital scheme, *Unlocking the Geffrye*, to open up the museum and greatly improve visitors' experience, create new spaces for its collections and learning activities, and develop the museum for generations to come. The £15m project is due to complete in 2019, depending on funding and planning.

<http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/aboutus/unlocking-the-geffrye/>

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