

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

What is/are your main interest(s) in the site

- Historical .....Social History .....
- Archaeology .....Technical .....
- Educational .....Natural History .....
- Other .....

Do you have any specialist skills or knowledge that would be useful to the project?

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**

The Operating Company run a volunteer programme for all those wishing to assist in the general running of the site, general site maintenance and special development projects. If you have any time to spare, no matter how infrequent, we hope you will join this programme. Further information can be had from any Committee member.

Members taking part in the company's Volunteer Programme will be given free entry to the site both on and off duty.

**MEMBER'S CONCESSION**

Members of the Association are eligible for a substantial reduction in entry fee when visiting the site (currently 50% of the standard adult ticket) on production of your membership card.

**ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE**

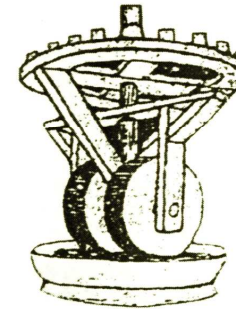
The Association has a current stock of Member's Ties bearing the Gunpowder Incorporating Mill Logo.

We are also publishing a series of booklets on various aspects of the site at a special reduced price for members.

For details of how to order these and any other Association material contact the Treasurer.



**FRIENDS**



**ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

## BACKGROUND

The town of Waltham Abbey has a long association with the manufacture of and research into explosives. From at least the 17th century the site to the north of the town was a private gunpowder factory which was taken into public ownership in 1787 to become the Royal Gunpowder Factory and supplied the country with gunpowder for the Napoleonic Wars. Subsequently the output expanded to include other, more powerful explosives and, for many years, was the prime supplier of cordite gun propellant. Expansion took place in the 19th century and a second site was opened to the south of the town.

At the end of WWII it became the country's prime research establishment for explosives, gathering together many scientists and engineers from all over the British Isles. Following rationalisation of Government Research Establishments both sites finally closed in 1991. The South Site had, by this time, been handed over to Royal Ordnance plc and this site has now been developed for housing, commercial and leisure use. The North Site was retained by the Ministry of Defence and was recognised as a unique site of significant historical and scientific interest. In addition, because of the closed nature of the site for the last 200 years, there is a very diverse ecology of flora and fauna, which is to be protected. A decision was taken to develop this site as a national interpretive centre for historical and educational purposes and a Heritage Lottery grant was obtained for its development. The first phase of development opened to the public in 2001 and further development will continue for some years.

It was recognised that many people have an interest in and could give valuable assistance to the project. To this end a "Friends Association" was set up in 1998 and members have given invaluable assistance to the Operating Company both during development and since opening to the public.

Membership is open to all those interested in any or all aspects of the site.

An annual subscription has been set for various classes of membership and payment should accompany the registration form opposite. A quarterly newsletter, 'Touchpaper', is published in June, September December and March each year and gives details and news of developments and articles of interest. This is available in printed or email versions.

Current subscriptions are:

ADULT members £8.00 Printed Touchpaper, £7 email Touchpaper

FAMILY membership £12.00 Printed Touchpaper, £10 email Touchpaper

(self + spouse + children under 18)

(N.B. Year runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st with reduced rates for those joining in year.

Join date Jul-Nov A £4, F £6 Printed Touchpaper; A £3, F £5 email Touchpaper

The objects of the Association are:

To bring together those sharing a common interest in the Royal Gunpowder Mills Site. Such interest may include; historical, archaeological, social, educational, technical and natural history matters associated with the site.

To promote the site as a national interpretive centre and, where possible, to render assistance to the Operating Company in the development and running of the site.

I hope that you will join us and share in this exciting venture.

John Wright Chairman

## WALTHAM ABBEY ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS

### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity No. 115237) ENROLMENT FORM

I/We wish to join and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association

	Touchpaper	Printed	email
Class of membership	ADULT <input type="checkbox"/>	£8	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>
	FAMILY <input type="checkbox"/>	£12	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>

Full Name(s) .....

(for family membership

please list all names) .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Home Address .....

(inc. Postcode)

.....

.....

.....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Cheques should be made payable to: **WARGM Friends Association**  
**Please return to the Treasurer:**

Daphne Clements  
56 Park Road  
Enfield  
EN3 6SR