



Saffron Walden Museum

The museum for north-west Essex



Museum News for February 2024



Visiting the Museum!

Our standard opening hours are:

Wednesday-Saturday 10-4.30pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-4.30pm

Closed Mondays (apart from bank holidays)

Tuesdays are currently reserved for pre-booked group visits by schools and other parties in term time.

Please note that from April this reserved for pre-booked groups day will switch from a Tuesday to a Wednesday, to allow more coach parties and groups visiting the town on market day to visit the Museum.

Please note that during the Winter months, November-February, the museum closes earlier at 4.30pm, rather than at 5pm

www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

Exhibitions



EVACUEE

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

Exhibition of original artwork of artist and author Brian Sanders. With illustrations of a wartime childhood in Saffron Walden along with high profile work for TV's Mad Men and Stanley Kubrick.

Saffron Walden Museum
Museum Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1BN
01999 510333 | saffronwaldenmuseum.org | museum@uttlesford.gov.uk



New Exhibition

Evacuee: A Wartime Childhood

runs until **Sunday 17 March 2024**

The museum is exhibiting the original artwork of artist and author Brian Sanders.

His professional career as an illustrator spans over 5 decades working on books, magazines, stamp and coin designs, editorial and advertising projects.

High profile work such as Mad Men and Stanley Kubrick, examples of which feature in the exhibition.

Scenes of Saffron Walden and the district from his two books, *Evacuee: A Wartime Childhood* (2010) and *Return of Evacuee: A Post-war Childhood* (2016) dominate the exhibition, accompanied by wartime items and photographs from the museum's collections.

Visitors will be able to explore the Second World War context and the lived experiences of evacuees who came to live in Saffron Walden and Uttlesford during that time, such as Brian.

Brian's original artwork features well known places in the town including Bridge End Gardens, St. Mary's Church, Bridge House, the 8 Bells pub and the Boys British School, as well as venues of the time which no longer exist or are much transformed such as the cinema and public baths, which many will remember.

Brian Sander's book, Evacuee: A Wartime Childhood is on sale in the museum for just £8.99



© Brian Sanders (artist), image from his book "Evacuee: A Wartime Childhood" (2010)



Object of the Month

The Museum's 'Object of the Month' provides an opportunity to explore interesting and unusual objects from our stores.

In celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month, February's object of the month looks into the queer aspects of the natural history collection. Same-sex pair bonding has been observed between individuals of two closely related species, such as different species of geese, and between members of the same species.

Same-sex courtship and mating behaviour also have been observed in many bird species including blue tits and pigeons.

Female blue tits have also been recorded sharing a nest and co-operating to raise their chicks, without male input.

Occasionally, both members of a female-female nesting pair will be supported and fed by the same male.

In general, same-sex reproductive behaviours are more common between males than females, and are seen more often in species where males mate with multiple females than in species that form breeding pairs. These behaviours are also more common when males are less

involved in raising the chicks, both in species that pair-bond and species that don't. However, in species with breeding pairs and when males provide most parental care, same-sex behaviour is highest between females.

See even more of the natural history collection through a queer lens in the Museum throughout February.

Your Stories

a new display, co-curated
by the museum and people
from our community



Future

"Your Stories" displays

"Your Stories" is our display space for co-curated displays by local and regional community groups and organisations.

It was begun as a new initiative in 2016 and has since successfully been used to present material from a wide range of community organisations and clubs, including badged groups, theatre groups, schools, home education groups, sports clubs, craft groups and many more. These displays change during the year.

If your community group or organisation would like a temporary display in the museum please get in touch with Jenny Oxley on museum@uttlesford.gov.uk 01799 510333 to be considered for the 2024 - 2025 exhibition programme.

Upcoming Events

Online pre-booking for our ticketed events is via our art tickets page

<https://saffron-walden-museum.arttickets.org.uk/>

February Half-Term Craft Activities



Tues 20 Feb

Eggbox Animal Portraits

Sessions last 30 mins, running between 10.10am-12.30 or between 2pm–2.30pm

£2.40 each

Either pre-book in advance on Art Tickets ([link above](#)) or drop-in on the day.

Wed 21 Feb

Wiggly Caterpillar

Sessions last 30 mins, running between 10.10am-12.30 or between 2pm–2.30pm

£2.40 each

Either pre-book in advance on Art Tickets ([link above](#)) or drop-in on the day.





Have you found any archaeological objects?

Record your finds with the Essex Finds Liaison Officer

Finds surgeries held at Saffron Walden Museum on:

Saturday 23rd March

Book an appointment at:
calendly.com/pasessex

Portable Antiquities Scheme
www.finds.org.uk

Colchester+Ipswich Museums

Colchester City Council

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

News Updates



Stick Insects on the Move

Do you love the stick insects? Then come and visit them soon to say goodbye.

They will be moving to the Agricultural Sciences Unit at Saffron Walden County High School to train students how to look after live insects. We will miss them very much.

They need a lot of looking after: finding bramble for them to eat, daily cleaning of the bug cage, putting eggs in the incubation tray, removal of dead vegetation stalks and spraying bramble leaves to provide extra moisture.

They will certainly keep the students busy and provide good livestock care experience.

The bug cage area in the Museum Discovery Centre will become a Climate Hub, so watch this space.



Calling All Knitters...

Do you have any surplus wool from finished projects that are taking up precious storage space and you don't know what to do with them?

In its role as a community hub, the museum is acting as a drop off point for unwanted wool, from which blankets will be knitted and sent to the Ukraine on a monthly basis.

It doesn't matter how small the length of yarn, but double-knit or Aran weight only please, and it must be washable (acrylic, machine-washable wool or a mixture). All donations will be put to very good use!



Remembering Hamish

Many of you will have known Hamish Mcilwrick, both as a volunteer and a friend, and it is with great sadness that we share that he passed away on Monday 22 January.

Hamish volunteered with us, helping with the document archive, for many years up until 2019 and was an active member of both the Museum and Historical Societies.

Hamish is pictured (left) with his Long Voluntary Service Certificate in 2016 and below in the centre of this team picture from the Volunteer Thank You event held at the museum in the Summer of 2018.



Museum Accreditation

Last month we submitted our application to renew our Museum Accreditation.

The Museum Accreditation scheme, administered by the Arts Council, is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries.

It tells everyone involved with a museum that they're doing the right things to help people to engage with collections and protect them for future generations to enjoy.

The scheme works for museums of all sizes: from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums. It's not a one-size-fits-all scheme and they assess the application according to the museum's size and type.



Care of Collections

Every three months we check sticky traps set out to catch insects in the galleries and storage areas of the Museum buildings.

There was an outbreak of pesky flies at the Museum Store. Although house flies do not damage objects, their bodies can provide food for the larvae of moths and carpet beetles which eat textiles, and fur and feathers in taxidermy collections.

The flies needed to be tackled with fly spray. In a work environment use of pesticides is regulated by COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations). Risks to health are evaluated and measures are implemented to reduce or eliminate the risks. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is required whilst using fly spray. This is one of the Natural Sciences Officers in her PPE, ready to spray the flies.



Learning & Outreach

Saffron Walden Museum is committed to sharing stories from its collections through its learning and outreach services.

We welcome schools and community groups to the Museum or offer outreach sessions.

Why not book in your school or community group.

We also have loan boxes on a range of historic themes available for hire.



Support the Museum by joining Saffron Walden Museum Society

<https://swmuseumsoc.org.uk/join-us/>

Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd is a voluntary charitable organisation that owns the museum building and collections – thought to be one of the oldest purpose-built museums in the country.

Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd was founded in 1832 (as Saffron Walden Natural History Society) for the purpose of establishing a museum.

It owns the museum's extensive collections, items of local, regional and international significance.

The Museum Society provides an active programme of talks and events for its members throughout the year.

The museum service is run by Uttlesford District Council in partnership with the Museum Society for the benefit of Saffron Walden and the Uttlesford district.

Saffron Walden Museum Society

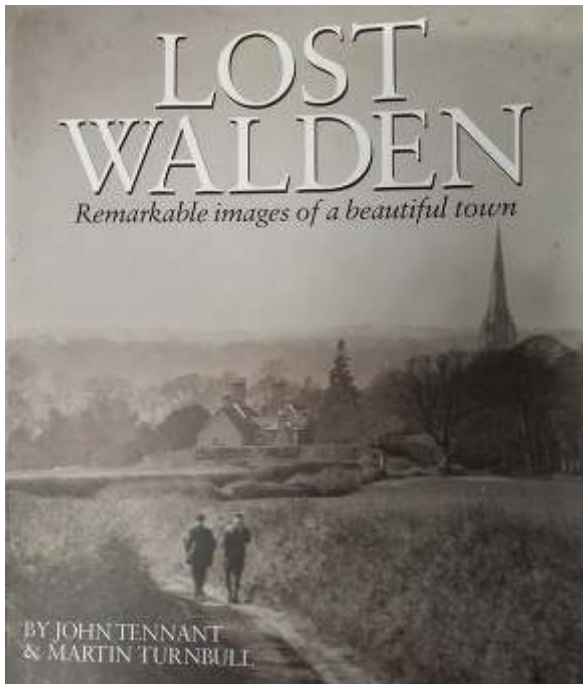
Charity no. 1123209

Shop Focus



Linked to our half-term activities this month, our shop focus product this month is this Mini Bug Viewer. Suitable for Age 3+

On Sale in the museum at just £1.25



Lost Walden:

Remarkable Images of a Beautiful Town

Lost Walden is a book of previously unpublished photographs telling the story of Saffron Walden from the 1850s to the present day, which has been compiled by John Tennant and Martin Turnbull, with photos researched and selected from the collections held here at Saffron Walden Museum and at the Gibson Library. Many months of research went into its production.

The book celebrates the work of local photographers, from John Mallows Youngman - who was working as early as the 1850s - through to David Campbell, who chronicled Walden in the 1950s and 60s.

Lost Walden is available in our museum priced at £18, a great gift for the local history boffin in your life!



We Are Recruiting!

Casual Museum Assistants

We are seeking to recruit additional museum assistants on a paid casual contract basis to assist with running the museum at weekends, stewarding events and helping visitors to enjoy our family-friendly service.

Closing date 11/02/2024

For more information and to apply online visit: <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/search-jobs>

Volunteering at the Museum

Would you like to join our team?

The museum could not operate without the help of our valued volunteers. We currently have around 50 volunteers, who fulfil a number of different roles, but we are always looking for more help.

Welcome Desk volunteers

Our Welcome Desk is run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers during the week. They provide a friendly welcome for visitors, sell tickets and merchandise, provide information about the museum, and direct enquiries to the appropriate member of staff.

They usually volunteer for a 2.5 hour shift, every day except for Mondays and Saturdays.

The museum is always looking for volunteers who can fill adhoc shifts, to provide cover for the regular shift volunteers when they are on holiday or off sick.

Welcome and a big thank you to our new volunteers : Sue Lloyd who has recently joined our Welcome desk team and to Sarah Copping and Tracey Black who have joined our collections team.



Website: www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

Email: museum@uttlesford.gov.uk

Phone: 01799 510333

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