

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

Friends Newsletter

January 2017 : Issue Number 13



FROM VILLAGE TO TOWN

Our new Exhibition called *From Village To Town, Celebrating A Century Of Migration* is now up and running!

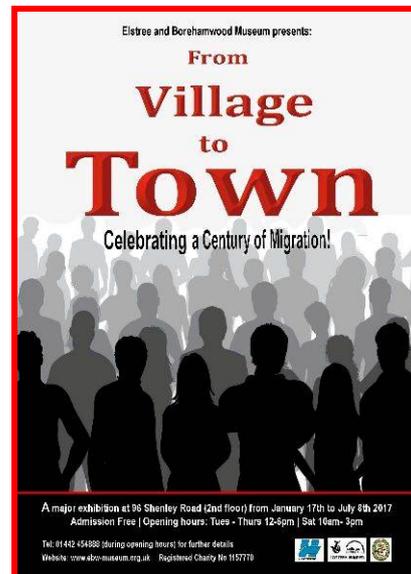
Eighteen months in the making, the exhibition focuses on the radical transformation of Elstree and Borehamwood over the past century, and the people whose arrival here made this happen.

In living memory, Elstree and Borehamwood was (and is still referred to by some) a village, but today it is a thriving South Hertfordshire town. We set out to look at how this became the case.

We were incredibly fortunate to have over fifty individuals agree to be interviewed in either audio or visual format. Thank you wonderful people.

At the heart of the exhibition, we have several listening posts, holding some of these invaluable contributions, to be listened to by our visitors. They are a bit different, as they take the form of traditional telephones. Each telephone represents and conveys the voices of the era.

Along with the filmed interviews, these are available to all on our museum website – www.elstree-museum.org.uk

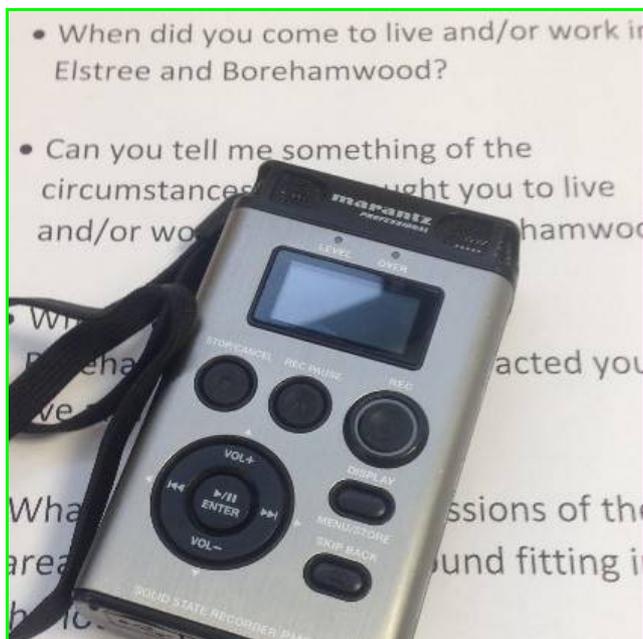


We are looking forward to sharing this exhibition with the community. We are sure that it will serve to emphasise what a dynamic, pragmatic and constantly changing community Elstree and Borehamwood is. We will share our discoveries, and accounts with all sections of the community.

Our education officer, Vania Ermolly, has already prepared fantastic resources and activities for local schools, who through this, will hopefully appreciate the fascinating town they live in.

The idea for this exhibition came from Vania, to whom, we want to extend an enormous thank you, for all your enthusiasm and positivity, without which the project could not have come together.

None of this project would have been possible, without the extraordinary support, from our volunteers. A huge thank you to Derek Allen, Dave Armitage, Cynthia Barker, Ruby Burke, Clive and Elaine Butchins, Betty Chandler, Maureen and Tevy Corman, Mike Cotton, Florrie Cowley, Palma Crabbe, Ken Custance, Joan Dorrington, Simon Gee, Maddi Hipperson, Stanley Hirschfield, Alan and Ann Lawrence, Lynda Marshall, Bob Mcintosh, Lynda Parkin, Keith Ray, Alan Robbins, Peter Seaman, Norman and Anne Shuker, Christine Smith, Helen Stamp, Pat Stilwell, Brenda and Clive Treacher, Paul Welsh, Irene White, Jon Woolston.
Matt Caro – Exhibition Curator



THE FRIENDS PAGE

Welcome to your page of news and forthcoming events

To tie in with our most recent Exhibition, *Down The Shops*, there was a special Friends event at the end of September to remember the golden days of 'Village' shopping. Special guest was Fred Thomas who ran the Boreham Wood ironmongers in Shenley Road for over 50 years and was a regular fixture in The Village.



Maureen, Fred and Dave

The evening was introduced by the Mayor Clive Butchins and Museum Manager Dave Armitage, and then the event organiser, Maureen Corman, proceeded to prompt Fred's fascinating journey through his life from Stanmore to Keele to Kenilworth and back to the Boreham Wood shop. A video which was shot just before Fred retired and closed his shop in 2000 revealed both his depth of hardware stock and d-i-y knowledge, not to mention his knowledge of the area and his loyal customers. Now of course we have to buy screws and nails in packs, but then you could buy them by weight, and Fred could help you with whatever your current project needed.

The evening was rounded off with drinks, nibbles, and a raffle, and Friends could visit our *Down The Shops* Exhibition.

NEW FRIENDS EVENT :

Don't delay, but book today
An Evening of Fun For Everyone
Local Writers and Poets who never shirk
Including One who Does her own art work
Enter the World of 'Writers in the Wood'
Enjoy an evening, and if you should
Want to take part, write poem or short story
Read it out, win a prize, feel the glory
Lorraine writes Poetry Saucy and Beguiling
Emily's Stories and Artwork leaves you smiling
Steven Does Science Fiction to Fill you with
Fear

WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY from 7 to 9 pm. Please ring the Museum on 01442 454888 to let us know you are coming, or email friendsofeandbwmuseum@hotmail.co.uk
TICKETS ARE LIMITED, SO APPLY NOW!

Elstree and Borehamwood Museum invites you to:

An Evening with

'Writers in the Wood'

We are delighted to host poets Lorraine Reed & Emily 'Madge' Payne and science fiction author Steven J Pemberton


Lorraine
www.lorrainereed.com


Emily
www.madgespoetrycorner.co.uk


Steven
www.pembers.net

'Writers in the Wood' are a group of over 80 local writers and authors who have connected through their love of literacy, to share their ideas with the world

This is a Special event for 'Friends' of the Museum
Wednesday 22nd February at 96 Shenley Road, 7-9pm

As part of this event, we are inviting anyone who will be joining us to create their own short story or poem, to be entered into a competition with prizes!
Please email any entries to the museum email below by 8th February.

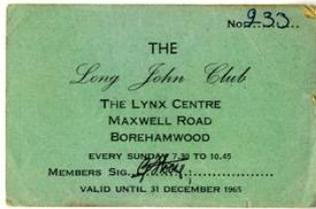
TESCO Prizes for the story/poetry competition kindly donated by Tesco, Borehamwood

Not a Friend! - Why not join and book a place (it's only £5 a year) by emailing us at 'friendsofeandbwmuseum@hotmail.co.uk'

Tel: 01442 454888 or visit us for further details
Website: www.elstree-museum.org.uk Registered Charity No 1157770

THE LYNX CLUB : "BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS"



The term 'paying your dues' is well known – you've got to pay your union fees to get work. In musicians' circles it has a slightly different connotation. If you haven't spent many a night playing small clubs and dives for little or no money, or slogged round the circuit for a good few years while you learn how to play your instrument, and how to entertain a crowd, then you will never have a long career, never have a large mansion, never have a young blonde on your arm.

Let's mention a few of the current heavyweight names in the music firmament such as (Sir) Rod Stewart, (Sir) Elton John, Eric Clapton, Ron Wood, George Fame; and a few of the bands that are still playing – The Who, Fleetwood Mac; and a few who have gone to that stage in the sky – David Bowie, Screaming Lord Sutch, Long John Baldry. All these, and many more, payed their dues in the Sixties in Boreham Wood – at The Links Club in Maxwell Park. And now that it's over 50 years ago, that makes it 'history', even if it's still in living memory.



John Mayall, Eric Clapton, John McVie, Hughie Flint at The Lynx : 4 February 1966
c.Keith Turner

While the Club was not on the main 'circuit' in the sixties, it was used by local entrepreneurs such as John Rowberry to promote the current groups and

singers they liked – pop, beat and r & b – and because the artists were growing in popularity through this period, they were caught in that perfect time. The time when their creativity was coming to the peak, transcending their influences from American music, and creating a uniquely British sound which would echo around the world for the next 50 years. And because they were still paying their dues they loved to play where they could, and what better than a stage and a hall just outside London – no slogging up the M1 in a dodgy van that night!

The roll call of musicians who played The Links (or 'Lynx' at times) was amazing. One or two gigs have gone down in local legend because you just had to be there :“They were all memorable nights: the target was painted on the wall for first visit of The Who... The club was besieged by screaming girls when The Merseys appeared in June 1966. Having arrived in a large black limo the pair had to be smuggled in through a dressing room window at the back of the hall!” – Gerald Stovey
“The official capacity was around 650 persons but I know that the Who and Georgie Fame had a very illegal 1000 plus!” - Keith Turner.



These stories and many more will be included in an Occasional Paper I am working on. It will include the story of the Links Youth Club – the sackings, the fights, the dramas; a complete timeline of the gigs at the Club; the story of John Rowberry; and a look at the sixties music scene in this area.

Thanks to Gerald and Keith for their memories, to Keith again for the wonderful photos, to June and Sheila at Maxwell Park, and to the District Post for all the memories. And if you went to the Lynx – please let me have *your* memories. **Simon Gee**

MARY HANSON

Mary, Chair person for the earlier Museum, has retired.

Mary's family came to Boreham Wood in the 1930s from Huddersfield having won the Irish Sweepstake which was run in aid of Irish hospitals. The Hansons took over the confectioners shop from Mr Stark in Shenley Road. Their business flourished, the ice cream was a particular success with the local population.

Later their tearoom proved very popular, particularly in the Second World War with the A.T.S. girls who were stationed here. Their accomodation was in large houses left empty in war time in Barham Avenue and 'The Grange' near the foot of Deacons Hill and Elstree Hill. And the Hanson's 'home cooking' style of food preparation pleased the soldiers who were stationed in the camps in Theobald Street.

Mary was educated at the Convent School in Theobald Street, and for her relaxation enjoyed horse riding and travelling extensively.

In later years Mary and her brother John managed the shop and tearoom themselves, and the ice cream was as popular as ever. Always interested in local history, Mary joined the earlier Museum when it opened in Drayton Road, and later went on to the new building at '96'. Mary has now retired, her legacy to the Museum is an extensive set of 35mm transparencies, now transposed to an SD card for future use. **Ann Lawrence.**



Final oppos: John and Mary Hanson in their tea rooms

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

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Tel 01442 454888

Email : info@elstree-museum.org.uk

Web : www.elstree-museum.org.uk

FB : www.facebook.com/EBWmuseum

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/EBWMuseumHerts>

Open : 12pm - 6pm Tues, Wed & Thurs

10am-3pm Sat

Supported by Hertsmere Borough Council

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Registered charity No 1157770

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND BECOME A FRIEND



OUTREACH NEWS

The period between September and December has been a very busy and productive one for Vania and her Education Team with five varied group visits to the Museum, in addition to the popular monthly meetings of **Going Down The Village** :

In September our group recalled how the area had developed after the war, while in October our regulars reminisced about Health and Old-time Remedies such as taking cod liver oil or having your chest covered with Vick if you had a cold. The topic for November was Open Places, Rivers and Waterways. People shared their memories of their time at Aldenham Lake, the water splash in Theobald Street as well as outings to Meadow Park.

We finished the year with our Christmas topic of Food and its traditions at Christmas time, over a welcome mince pie and cup of tea! Our next meeting is on Thursday February 2nd, and all the Friends are of course invited.



The Scouts and Girl Guides drop in for a visit :

On Tuesday 18th October a group of eighteen Cub-Scouts were welcomed into the Museum for an evening visit. The following month on Wednesday the 23rd November a group of sixteen+ Brownie-Guides from the 5th Borehamwood pack did the same. Their trip opened with a tour round the Museum to see our current exhibition : *Down The Shops*. This included weighing out sweets, using old-fashioned imperial measurements in ounces and using the clunking till with pre-decimal pounds, shillings and pence (and florins, half-pennies, sixpences and all) – much to their delight! A panel of Museum volunteers were interviewed by the boys and girls, asking questions on a variety of topics.

Our **Monksmead** Friends Visit Us

In November two classes from Monksmead School visited the Museum. Again, great fun was had by using the old-fashioned cash register, handling pre-decimal coins and weighing out 2oz. of sweets in Hanson and Maud's sweetshop. The children explored the Museum and both classes took part in a Curious Curator workshop, handling a range of artefacts including a Bakelite telephone and an Edwardian hot-water bottle. In another workshop, the Year 2 children used maps and photographs to find out just how much Borehamwood had changed in 100 years. The younger children in Year 1 handled and played with a range of old-fashioned toys including a Diabolo and a spinning top.

Haberdasher's Aske's Visit the Museum :

A class of sixth-form boys visited the Museum in November, as part of their A-level Geography course, with the aim of exploring 'the developing character of a place local to your school'. As well as the Museum tour, the day included interviews with people who live in the area, and a Power-Point presentation on the changes to Borehamwood since 1940. The boys went on to explore the town and see the many changes for themselves.

Small local museums have found it increasingly difficult to engage with schools as the curriculum becomes more demanding in range and teachers' time so we have done very well since opening at 96 Shenley Road. We will be hoping to build on this success in 2017 and a 'drop-in' teachers' event is currently being planned for February. None of this would be possible without the support of our volunteers who willingly give of their time, even on a cold winter's evening! So thank you to: David Armitage; Lynda Marshall; Lynda Parkin; Helen Stamp; Joyce Steward; Derek Allen; Ruby Burke and Pat Rossney. **Vania Ermolly.**