

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

Friends Newsletter

January 2020 : Issue Number 22



HOLBY CITY AT 20

Our Latest Exhibition and Friends Evening

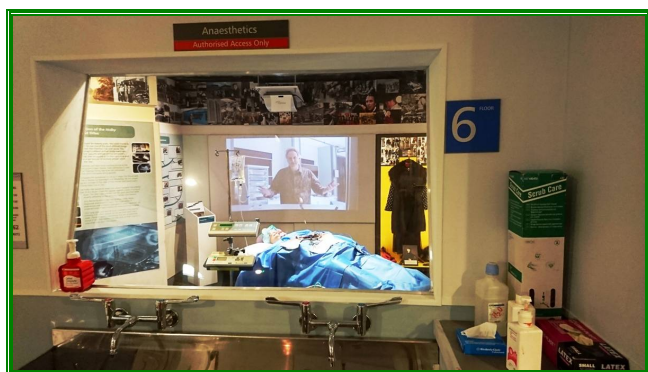
Our latest Exhibition features the long-running BBCTV series *Holby City* which is filmed at the BBC Elstree Studios, a stones throw from the Museum. A team from the BBC, including the current set designers and props managers, created and constructed the entire Exhibition. They removed all our standing walls and filled every nook and cranny with information panels and props from the series. In the centre of the space they installed a false window wall with a scrub sink, and behind that placed a 'body' on a gurney with a dodgy heart in the 'operating theatre'.



storylines. There are NHS medical files, star profiles and even old scripts. All the cabinets are full of prosthetics, medical props, false limbs and the odd head or two – one with a steel rod right through :



Not For The 'Faint Of Heart'!



Bob On Film Behind The 'Body'

There is a large video wall at the back of the Museum featuring unseen footage from the show as well as interviews with some of the popular characters and a few of the backroom design and creative teams. The information panels cover the full story of *Holby City* over the last 20 years from inception to today's

We have the genuine costumes of well-known characters – Frieda Petrenko's striking outfit is in the Exhibition, while the nursing costumes of Tricia Williams and Essie di Lucca are featured in our downstairs case.



Bob Barrett Opens Holby

The Exhibition was opened by Bob Barrett, who has played 'Sasha' in the series for 10 years, sharing the honours with Dave Armitage.



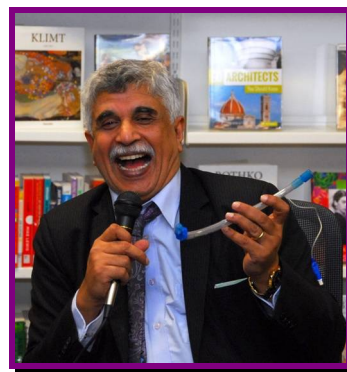
The Long View

Needless to say this is a *Holby City* fan's dream, and we have had multiple visits from some dedicated viewers, and visitors from all over the country from Horsham to Hitchin, from Worthing to Cheltenham, and from Tooting to Lancashire. And because visitors can dress up and play doctors and nurses many a photo and selfie has been taken of the 'operating theatre'. Thankfully, the BBC decided not to supply us with real blood transfusions and drips. Our Cheltenham visitor said her daughter preferred our *Holby* to the *Harry Potter* down the road!



The 'Medical Staff' amuse Bob at the Opening

We held a ***Friends Evening*** to tie in with the Exhibition, organised by the indefatigable Maureen Corman. She invited the chief medical adviser to the programme, Dr Shyam Kolvekar, to join us for a talk and questions. His main 'job' is being the Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at St Barts Hospital but he has been the *Holby City* adviser since the show began, making sure that all the medical terms and scenarios are correct, believable, and conform to medical practice in the NHS.



Dr Shyam with a favourite prop

He has worked on medical documentaries for TV and film and wherever his expertise is called for. He had actually just returned from India that very day, and regaled us with stories from his early years there when he became a doctor and surgeon. Of course he had many stories about *Holby City* and the need to keep it as accurate as possible while maintaining the drama levels. It was a fascinating evening for lovers of dramas and doctors.

A Short History of Tilehouse Farm

It all began about a year ago when our next door neighbour posted a photo on our local WhatsApp group of the 'Tilehouse Barn' in the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Having never heard of this particular edifice, we determined to have a perusal and see what was once standing where we now live.



Cattle Byre Before

Sure enough it was easy to find the barn in this fine Museum (well worth a visit indeed) where it is called the Borehamwood Cattle Byre. 'Before' and 'After' photos are provided, and some historical background. The Byre was originally a stables when built around 1850, and when the trains arrived in Borehamwood in 1868, it was converted for milking cattle to supply the London market. Of course the trains also brought new residents to the area, and the local demand for milk rapidly increased.



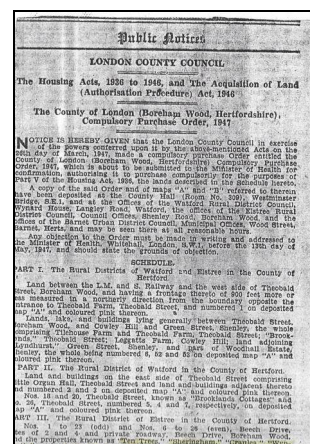
Cattle Byre After

Tilehouse Farm was one of the four farms along Theobald Street and the nearest to The Village. It comprised the farmhouse, a threshing barn, a store barn, a granary (on stilts), the aforementioned Byre and a cottage, and was a major business in the area during and following the Victorian period.



The Farmhouse

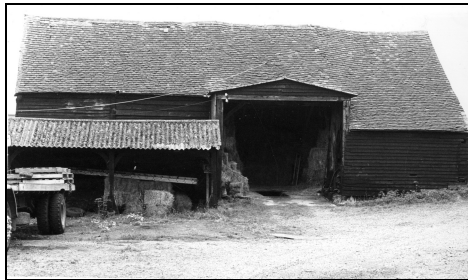
But after the Second World War large areas of Borehamwood were compulsory purchased by the London County Council for housing. The Museum has a Public Notice from 1947 to this effect - one of the areas described for purchase is "Lands, lake, and buildings lying generally between Theobald Street, Boreham Wood, and Cowley Hill and Green Street, Shenley, the whole comprising Tilehouse Farm and Theobald Farm, Theobald Street..."



surrounded by modern development. A comparison between an early map and the present satellite view reveals how much remains of The Village's local farm.

[illegible]

The Best Caption At The Volunteers' Christmas Party



The Threshing Barn Before

By the early to mid-80s when Tilehouse Close was built, the delapidated byre had been removed to the Open Air Museum and the remaining farm buildings were restored. Thanks to the original builders the underlying structures were sound, and so the 17th century Threshing Barn became a significant listed renovation, and most of the other farm buildings mentioned above were restored as individual dwellings.



The Threshing Barn After

Unlike the other farms in the area whose buildings were demolished and whose location is not visible in the current landscape, the Tilehouse Farm footprint is still very much in evidence, even if it is hidden and



Paul to Ruth :

“No, I can’t get you in the movies!”
(As chosen by Ann Shuker)

[illegible]

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB

Tel : 01442 454888

Email : info@elstree-museum.org.uk

Web : www.elstree-museum.org.uk

FB : www.facebook.com/EBWmuseum

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

Sat : 10am-3pm

Supported by : Hertsmere Borough

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