



# FORUM NEWS

NEWS FROM THE LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND MUSEUMS FORUM

## CHRISTMAS 05



The exhibition from the Imperial War Museum, “**Their Past, Your Future**”, has recently been at the Abbey Pumping Museum in Leicester. Members of the Forum, and the general public, have been speaking about their memories of WW2 and its effects on them and their families, to the schools who visited the Exhibition. One Forum member spoke about being an evacuee in Yorkshire, and was pleasantly surprised at the questions asked by the children. A short article is in the newsletter. It is vital that these memories are properly recorded for future generations – these records are the basis for many of the museums within the Leicestershire & Rutland Forum, and form an immensely important part for historians of the future to learn about the way we lived and worked. All members of the Forum are museum addicts, and understand the need to record these memories, but we still have some way to go to convince the general public of its relevance—but we keep on trying! *Editor*

**Welcome Back** to Claire Browne on her return from maternity leave. Claire is working 3 days a week until Christmas, when she rejoins the service full time.

## News from the Museums

### Visit of Lady Whittle to Lutterworth

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005, Lady Whittle and her daughter visited Lutterworth to have her first glimpse of the E28/39 aircraft replica located on the A4303 roundabout at the southern entrance to Lutterworth. Lady Whittle last visited Lutterworth in 1987 with Sir Frank where a bust of him was unveiled by Dr R (Bob) Fielding. Lady Whittle who is now 90, travelled from her US home in Minneapolis to see how her jet engine designer husband has been commemorated in Lutterworth by the Sir Frank Whittle Commemorative Trust.

Accompanied by her daughter Carla and Sir Frank’s former colleague Roy Fowkes, she viewed the replica aircraft from the viewing platform on the old Rugby Road. Afterwards she stopped at the bust of Sir Frank in Church Street, Lutterworth on her way to see the Whittle Collection at the Lutterworth Museum. She took great interest in the collection including the original patent document of Sir Frank’s turbo jet engine. She was amazed at how much effort has gone into commemorating

Sir Frank since her last visit. Afterwards she went to a reception at the Lutterworth

Town Hall where she met members of the group who designed and built the replica. Her daughter Carla said her mother was impressed by the effort volunteers had made to honour the engineer. It really shows that the people here are proud of him.

The Mayor of Lutterworth, Cllr Eileen Derrick said she remembers hearing strange noises coming from the top secret workshop at Ladywood Works in the Leicester Road, a high pitched whine that carried on the wind all around Lutterworth. She said she didn’t know what it was, but there were rumours that it was something to do with the war.

For further information contact Barry Derham 01455 554471.



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### Railway Vehicle Preservations. Brian Green Memorial Museum

Railway Vehicle Preservations (RVP) award -winning Postal Museum has been dedicated to the memory of Brian Green I.S.M. (Imperial Service Medal). Brian, who created the museum, passed away in August 2004 and it was only fitting that the museum be dedicated as a lasting memorial to him. The ceremony took place at Loughborough Central Station, in July 2005, when the final District Head Postmaster of Leicester, Ken Hathaway, recalled Brian's Post Office career.



(Above) – Brian Green “on duty” at Quorn and Woodhouse Station where the TPO lineside mail exchange apparatus is located.

The museum has been going through a two year period of restoration following a near disastrous flooding when the canvas/wooden roof succumbed to the elements, splitting and letting in rain over the winter of 2003. Much of the interior wooden frame suffered water and damp damage and many of the paper and picture exhibits were lost.

Fortunately, Brian had kept original copies of most of these and there was an abundance of new material to exhibit once the structural damage had been restored.

Sadly Brian, who understandably was very upset by the damage and losses, died before the restoration was completed by his RVP colleagues. The museum is now restored to its former condition and in many respects improvements have been made of which Brian would be proud.



(above) Photo of the restored museum.

Forum members will be well aware of the problems associated with saving historic exhibits in the best possible condition even under normal situations of a sound, heated and ventilated building. In the RVP we have never enjoyed the right environmental conditions in which to keep our museum or, indeed, our several historic carriages including the 1937 TPO sorting carriage. It is therefore, with considerable optimism, that RVP can inform the Forum that our present circumstances are soon to change.

### RVP to have a new home (to be continued...)

(As this is a long article outlining the future plans for the RVP, it has been split between this edition and Spring 2006 – Ed.)

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### An Evacuee Childhood

At the outbreak of WW2 I was nearly 5 years old with a young brother. We were living in Hoxton, London, and in 1940 when the bombing began, we had been bombed out and my mother moved with us to an aunt's house in Finsbury Park, London, After several near misses, including one at the near-by Arsenal Football Ground, the authorities decided that we should be evacuated to Ilkley in Yorkshire. By now I had twin sisters as well, so the five of us were allocated a cellar in a large house and running alive with mice. We were befriended by a volunteer WVS worker, who became Auntie Nora to us all, and relocated to a children's holiday home on the moors. After a few months here we then moved to a third floor flat over shops in the centre of Ilkley, very helpful with four children!



During a lull in the bombing campaign, my mother decided to move back to Dagenham, Essex to live with my grandmother. Dagenham was a prime industrial target and with repeated bombing and the V1's and V2's we had to move back to Ilkley. Although initially we went back to another large house, we ended up in a lodge of an estate where we stayed until peacetime.

I remember walking to school with the snow piled up either side of the road, taller than I was, or with luck hitching a lift with the milkman and his horse, the distance was about 3 miles, my brother and I were very fit – no cars to take us to school! At the end of the day my memories, as a child, were of a great place to live. I spent my informative years in Ilkley Primary School; we were able to wander on the moors, fall in the tarn (river), and all the usual children's play, we just had the cinema and the radio for entertainment, there was no television of course. We were one of many evacuee families from all parts of the United Kingdom, and I feel this was part of my education, as we soon realised that people are just the same, whatever the accent. My one truancy during the afternoon period proved disastrous as I went home at the right time, having forgotten to collect my brother; so it served me right, I had two journeys.

It's important to tell today's children what it was like, we were treated as a nuisance by a lot of property owners, but we also found good kind people, like Auntie Nora, who remained a family friend for the rest of her life.

As part of the exhibition "Their Past Your Future", this was the basis of my talk to school children, aged 8-10 years, at Abbey Pumping Station, and I have been asked to speak to Meadows County Primary School in Wigston on the same subject.

*Terry Howatt*

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### Dates for your Diary

**Rutland Railway Museum**  
**Santa Specials 2005**  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December



Trains run half-hourly between 11am – 4pm, **booking is essential**. After a short steam-train ride you can visit Santa's Grotto, and included in the price is a mince

pie and hot drink for adults, and a drink and snack for children. You are welcome to stay and look round the museum, shop and café and you may ride in the carriage as often as you like. Fully inclusive fare is £7 per person. Contact Santa's Little Helper, Rutland Railway Museum, Ashwell Road, Cottesmore, Rutland LE15 7BX, tel: 01780 764118 between 4pm-8pm ONLY.



### Christmas Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> December

A reminder to members that the Christmas meeting will be held in Wigston, at Hawthorn House, (Age Concern), Paddock Street, Wigston, starting at 7pm. The speaker will be Dr Stephen Weston talking about the Charles Moore Collection of Musical Instruments. There is a free public car park opposite the building.

### Whitwick Historical Group

15<sup>th</sup> December – Members Evening – A Slide Show, followed by Wine & Cheese.  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2006 – Old Provincial Theatres – Ted Bottle.  
16<sup>th</sup> February – Medieval Castles of Leicestershire & Rutland. – Peter Liddle.

All meetings at the Old Station Building, North Street, Whitwick at 7.30pm

### Whitwick Colliery Closure – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

An Exhibition is planned for next year and the date is to be confirmed. Information, photographs, exhibits & help required. Please contact Doreen on 01530 831418.

### News from the Executive Committee

Provisional dates were agreed as follows:

#### Open Meetings:

6<sup>th</sup> April – Annual General Meeting  
7<sup>th</sup> September  
7<sup>th</sup> December

All venues to be confirmed and will be sent to members as soon as possible.

The Heritage Awards 2006 will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006; again the venue is to be confirmed. Details to follow early in 2006.

### News from AIM

#### Gift Aid

Considerable progress has been made on the detail of the new Gift Aid on



admissions scheme to be introduced in April 2006. The Attractions Gift Aid Liaison Group (AGALG) has been negotiating with HM Revenue & Customs on how the new scheme will work and HMRC has published new guidance notes. The other strand of AGALG's work is the creation of a familiar brand to encourage maximum participation through a common logo and promotional messages. The HMRC guidance notes are available on [www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/chapter3-insert.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/chapter3-insert.htm).

### Full Cost Recovery

Are you including all your relevant overheads in your funding applications? Most AIM members will already have an understanding of the need to include the true cost of services within funding applications, but until recently it was unclear whether this would be accepted by many organizations.

Now there is a growing recognition that overheads are vital to an organisation's ability to deliver projects successfully and the distinction between project costs and core or revenue costs is increasingly being abandoned. The inclusion of such costs in your bids now has a formal name – "full cost recovery".

An agreement was reached in 2002 between HM Treasury and the third sector that funders should recognize that it is legitimate for providers to include the relevant elements of overheads in their cost estimates.

Copies of "*Full Cost Recovery a guide and toolkit on cost allocation*", visit [www.acevo.org.uk](http://www.acevo.org.uk) and click on "publications", or tel: 0845 345 8481.

### Wake-up call for digitised collections

Digitisation is making more collections accessible across the internet but a recent survey by the Museums & Libraries Association/Digital Preservation Coalition carried out in the North East and West Midlands, shows that these digitised collections may be at risk of being lost to future generations if the issue of digital preservation is not addressed.

Key findings were:

1. There was a need for help and advice on digital preservation.

2. Awareness of the whole issue of digital preservation needed raising.
3. Most projects involve digitising existing collections and the issues raised by 'born-digital' material have not been tackled.
4. Long-term management of digital material needs to be more firmly embedded in thinking and planning.

Lynne Brindley, CEO of the British Library and chair of the DPC, said the survey provided a wake-up call. "Current investment in digitisation will be wasted if we cannot provide sustainable levels of access for the long term". She said a national policy was needed.

### Museum Information

#### EMMLAC Grant scheme 2005-06

**EMMLAC priority for 2005-06:** Grants of up to £5,000 are available to publicly accessible museums, libraries and archives in the East Midlands for focused development work enabling external funding to be levered into the sector.

The scheme will close on 1st March 2006.

To receive a copy of our application form, guidelines and conditions, contact Ryan Brown by email ([rbrown@emmlac.org.uk](mailto:rbrown@emmlac.org.uk)) or telephone 0116 2851371.

### Awards for All

Awards for All are a Lottery grants scheme aimed at local communities. They award grants of between £500 and £5,000. The process is designed to be as simple and straightforward as possible. They can fund projects that enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

**Applications from community projects are currently being encouraged for the money remaining to be allocated this year.**

Before you submit your application, you need to fill in question 17 on the form with details of a referee. When thinking about whom to approach as your referee, please consider the following:

Your referee must be someone from the following list:

- arts development officer

- sport development officer
- lottery officer
- museums officer
- officer from a development agency e.g. rural community council, council for voluntary service
- local councillor
- member of parliament
- justice of the peace
- senior bank official
- religious leader
- healthcare professional\*
- school teacher\*
- social worker\*
- police officer\*

[Ed. To avoid unnecessary delay it is best that referees describe themselves in one of the above categories, e.g. museums officer **and not** museums curator, and then explain on the form what their job entails.]

If your project is working with children under 16, your referee must be someone from the options marked with an asterisk (\*).

Your referee must not be...

- a current member of your group, a trustee or a member of staff
- related to someone in one of these positions
- formerly (that is, within the last two years) in one of these positions
- someone who will directly benefit if you get a grant

Your group must also submit a copy of its constitution. For advice on what this is and what it must contain, visit [www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/4.5Advice%20on%20Constitutions.pdf](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/4.5Advice%20on%20Constitutions.pdf)

For simple advice on how to avoid some other common pitfalls, visit [www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/eastmidlands/Easy-as-ABC-East-Midlands.pdf](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/eastmidlands/Easy-as-ABC-East-Midlands.pdf)

Awards for All East Midlands  
Ground Floor  
St Nicholas Court  
25-27 Castle Gate  
NottinghamNG1 7AR  
Tel: 0115 934 9304  
[www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/eastmidlands/eastmidlands\\_main.html](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/eastmidlands/eastmidlands_main.html)

### **Young Roots**

Young Roots offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 to engage young

people in exploring their heritage. Young people aged between 13-20 years (up to 25 years for those with additional needs) are encouraged to identify their own heritage and develop creative projects that help them explore the diverse heritage of the UK and share their learning with the wider community.

Top tips for potential bidders....

- Stay flexible about the theme and how it will be interpreted or represented in the end project
- Young people learn through doing, learning through games, team building etc.
- Make sure the young people are involved from the start, that the project is based on their idea and is of interest to them
- Plan lots of fun activities – Heritage is all around us, so take young people to visit it rather than just talk about it
- Give group members a special role e.g. group photographer
- Have regular meeting with partners and young people, so everyone is kept informed



### **Could it be you?**

Last year Young Roots made over one hundred grant awards: this year they aim to double that number - could you be one of the lucky grantees?

HLF is looking to support projects that:

- Involve young people aged between 13-20
- Relate to the varied heritage of the UK
- Can be delivered through partnerships
- Increase opportunities for young people to learn about heritage
- Promote involvement in heritage and a greater appreciation of the value of heritage for a wide range of young people

Partnership between a youth work and a heritage organisation is an essential criterion for any Young Roots projects. Evaluation has shown that projects are more likely to be successful if they have partners who can bring the following expertise:

- Youth work knowledge and experience in engaging young people
- Heritage knowledge and experience of heritage research and interpretation

- Creativity, the hook that attracts and engages young people in exploring and interpreting their heritage

### **Your local contact**

To explore HLF funding opportunities contact your local Young Roots Co-ordinator for case studies, advice and guidance.

**East Midlands;** Debs McCahon  
[deborahm@hlf.org.uk](mailto:deborahm@hlf.org.uk)

Or visit [www.hlf.org.uk/youngroots](http://www.hlf.org.uk/youngroots) for further information.

### **Microsoft Giving Programme**

Between 1998 and 2002 Microsoft donated over £3 million of software to the UK voluntary sector, for use in fundraising or helping to run voluntary organisations. Microsoft's Giving Programme supports a wide range of projects and is particularly interested in projects that improve access to technology for disadvantaged communities. Charities and non-profit organisations can apply for a donation of up to three software packages.

For more information visit:

[www.microsoft.com/uk/community/community/support/grants.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/uk/community/community/support/grants.aspx)

Applications for Microsoft Giving should be sent to:

PO Box 7916  
 East Reading RG6 1XB  
 Or email [ukgiving@microsoft.com](mailto:ukgiving@microsoft.com)

### **Government Issues Draft Policy to BLF**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has issued draft policy directions to the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) pending the National Lottery Bill, which will be making its way through Parliament after the summer recess. In the guidelines the largest Lottery distributor will have to take into account the need to:

- Ensure that money is distributed to projects which make real and sustainable improvements to the quality of life in local communities
- Be innovative and take risks in distributing money, balanced with the need to manage risk in a way that suits the type of project and applicant
- Include a condition in all grants to acknowledge Lottery funding using the common Lottery branding

- Involve the public in making policies, setting priorities and making grants

Liberal Democrat MPs, Don Foster and Jo Swinson have tabled an amendment to the National Lottery Bill, designed to guarantee the Lottery's independence from the Government. The amendment, which is supported by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), requires the Culture Secretary to issue guidance to Lottery distributors asking them to make a distinction between core central government expenditure and Lottery funding; likewise between local government expenditure and government funding.

Further to this, Lottery minister Richard Caborn has confirmed in writing that the Government will not "intervene in individual grants" handed out by Lottery distributors. In a letter addressed to the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO), he also said that ministers would not be determining the programmes of the Big Lottery Fund.

### **Free Accession Registers**

Claire Browne has two mda archival accession registers to give away to needy museums for free. They would provide a museum with a saving on over £100 each. Contact Claire Tel: 0116 267 0012  
[cbrowne@leics.gov.uk](mailto:cbrowne@leics.gov.uk)

### **Virtual Museum Guide**

Claire Browne has a number of demonstration promotional CDs from In The Picture, a company who provide virtual tours for museums. Email or telephone Claire for a CD.

### **Preparing for Museum Accreditation**

All registered museums will soon be asked to apply for Accreditation – the new standards scheme that has succeeded Museum Registration. All museums need to start planning now. To help you, the Forum will run a series of training days starting with the mda course – **Documentation for Accreditation on Wed. 15 February**. More information will be mailed to you in the New Year. Put the date in your diary – venue to be confirmed, advanced reservations can be taken by Claire Browne – Tel: 0116 267 0012  
[cbrowne@leics.gov.uk](mailto:cbrowne@leics.gov.uk)

### Caring for Costume in Museums

A practical training course on caring for and displaying costume and textile collections in your museum. 16 December at Snibston Discovery Park, run by Philip Warren of Leicestershire Heritage Services. To book your place Tel: 0115 914 6645 or email Gavin Walker on [gpwalker@btconnect.com](mailto:gpwalker@btconnect.com) Cost: £7.50 EMMS members £22.50 non members. This training is funded by EMMS.

### Sustainable Museums – Cynthia Brown - EMMLAC

This is a programme worth £108,000, funded by the European Social Fund to develop business skills in the independent museum sector, providing customised advice and support. There is no cost to the museums themselves. EMMLAC is running two tranches of the project with 32 places.

The training will be provided by Arts Training Central. Initial courses (1.5 days) at Grantham and Wellingborough will identify support needs, but provision may be in a variety of ways: development clubs, mutual support networks, mentoring. There is allowance for travel costs, but if a venue is offered for the second tranche, the introductory days could be provided more locally. For further information contact Cynthia on 0116 285 1370.

Claire Browne  
Community Museums Officer  
Leicestershire Environment & Heritage Services  
Tel: 0116 267 0012

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Claire Browne has a new telephone number: this is:**

**0116 2670012.**

Her address at Holly Hayes remains the same.



(Above)

These two pictures illustrate what a difference 60 years can make. They are (top) pupils prior to a themed street party commemorating the 60 anniversary of the end of WW2, and (bottom) holidays at home – Queen's Park, Loughborough. Both supplied by the Carillon Tower Museum, courtesy of Peter Crooks.

## Did You Know?

- From abandoned hulk to international jewel

35 years after Brunel's SS *Great Britain* first came back to Bristol as a rusting hulk, the historic ship has been completely returned to her former glory. It has taken the solid determination of trustees, staff, and the world's leading experts in project management, iron conservation, engineering, glass and construction to halt corrosion and save the Victorian steamship for the next 100 years. Imagination and painstaking research has

ensured that visitors can now step back in time to experience life on board the world's first great ocean liner. For further information visit their website: [www.ssgreatbritain.org](http://www.ssgreatbritain.org).

- AIM's 29<sup>TH</sup> annual conference will be on 4-6 May 2006 at the ss *Great Britain*, Bristol. The theme is *What does Renaissance do for us?* Further details to follow in the December issue of AIM Bulletin and will be reported in the Spring issue of the newsletter.



**Please remember to send your articles for the Newsletter, and all information about events that you want publicised.**

**Forum Contacts:**

**Forum Chairman – Paul Monk,**

tel. 01530 411563.

[Paul.Monk@virgin.net](mailto:Paul.Monk@virgin.net)

**Forum Secretary – Peter Crooks**

(membership/meetings/correspondence)

tel. 01509 268561

[carillonmuseum@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carillonmuseum@tiscali.co.uk)

**Forum Treasurer – Phillip Lindley,**

[Plindley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Plindley@leics.gov.uk)

**Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary**

Sally Howatt,

tel. 0116 2885276 [howatt@supanet.com](mailto:howatt@supanet.com)

**Community Museums Officer,  
Leicestershire Heritage Services –**

Claire Browne:

tel. 0116 267 0012

[Cbrowne@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Cbrowne@leics.gov.uk)



***As this is the last edition before Christmas, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I hope to see you all at the Christmas meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December at Hawthorne House, Paddock Street, Wigston.***

**Sally Howatt**

**Editor**

