

OUTREACH

Taking the Museum to a wide and varied audience has always been part of the museum's remit.

GUIDED WALKS

In the summer months a team of volunteers take visitors on the popular, free Guided Walks of Edenbridge which highlight the many historic buildings of the Town.

Don Garman leading a group on a guided walk.

Image courtesy J. Higgs



Volunteers take portable displays out to those who cannot come to us.

The Museum mounts events at Roman Court, Edenbride Hospital, Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Evolve by Age UK. The museum also takes stands at Summer Fêtes throughout the Eden Valley.



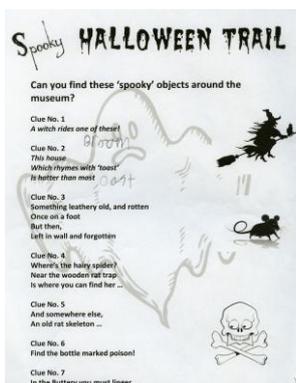
An outreach event commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the 1987 Hurricane.



Betty Milsted at a WW2 outreach day for Age Concern at Edenbridge Leisure Centre



Brenda Hillman taking our 'handling collection' to a school.



Spooky Museum trail

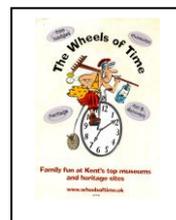


'Across the Generations'.
EDEVT: 3611

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES.



Half Term Children's activities.2005 EDEVT:3526



'Wheels of Time' activity

The Eden Valley Museum participates in the 'Wheels of Time' scheme which encourages children to visit museums.



Children's summer fun 2017



All the major exhibitions have related children's activities.

Hop picking badges designed by children. 2019

THE CHIDDINGSTONE HOARD



THE MUSEUM'S FIRST PURCHASE

In 2017 a metal detectorist found a hoard of 10 gold Iron Age coins (c.60-50 BC) in the parish of Chiddingstone. Through the Portable Antiquities Scheme the Museum was given the opportunity to purchase them.

The Museum launched a fundraising campaign and thanks to the generosity of its supporters and grants from the V&A and the Headly Trust it successfully raised the necessary funds to purchase the coins.



We designed and sold a fundraising badge



.....Assembling the display case

The Museum successfully applied for a grant from the South East Museum Development Fund to aid with updating security and purchasing a state-of-the-art display case.

When everything was in place the coins were collected from the British Museum...

Miranda Charalambous handing a cheque to Ian Richardson from the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the British Museum.



The coins arriving at the Museum

Ready for the opening on 7th April 2018



Jonathan Barbour with his metal detector, and Jo Ahmet, the Kent Finds Liaison Officer giving talks at the opening.



Elizabeth Fleming, then President of the Museum, and Alan Smith, then Chairman of the Museum, unveiling the coins to the public.

SPREADING OUR WINGS

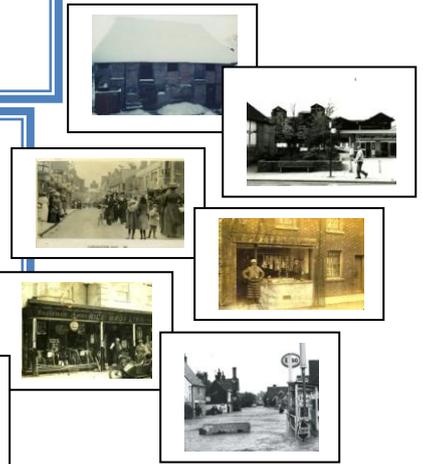
The Eden Valley Museum has forged links with national museums and the wider heritage world.



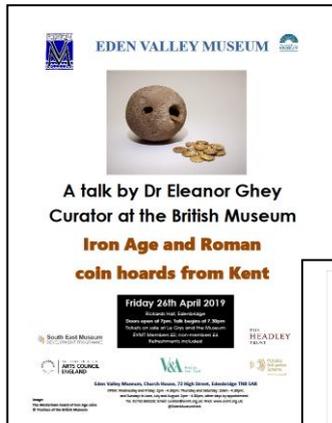
10 BEST OBJECTS IN KENT
 In 2010 the British Museum and the BBC joined forces to run a project highlighting the interesting objects to be found in regional museums. The Eden Valley Museum was delighted when our sewing box, (made by a German prisoner of war for a local Land Girl), was picked as one of the 10 best objects in Kent.



KENT PHOTO ARCHIVE
 Our extensive photographic archive of over 7000 photographs, has been shared with Kent Photo Archive and now over 2,500 of them can be viewed on line. www.kentphotoarchive.com

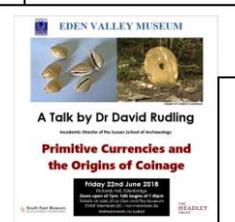


HORNIMANS MUSEUM
 In April 2019 the Hornimans Museum in London generously loaned the Museum a WW1 Bugle which enhanced our WW1

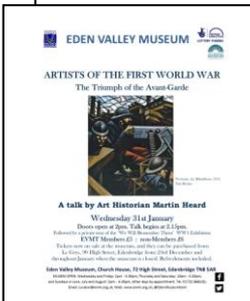


The museum arranges talks from experts in many fields.

Tunbridge Wells Museums has generously loaned local artefacts to enhance our displays.



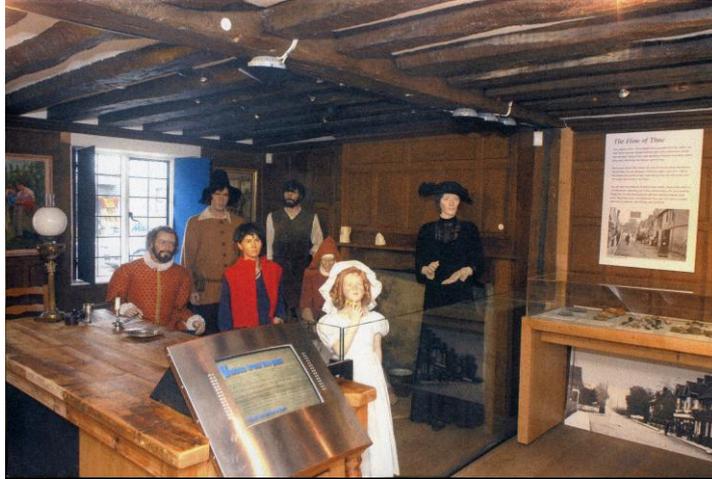
Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery loaned wooden tally sticks for the 2019 Hopping exhibition.



Bob Ogley talking about 'The Great Storm' and John Surtees with his bikes.

Images courtesy Champion Photographic

THE CHARACTERS



One of the prominent features of the newly opened Museum were the characters in the Buttery and Pantry which, through technology, told the part they played in the history of the Eden Valley. Sadly over time the technology failed. Some now appear silently in the galleries while others have gone on to have new lives as part of exhibitions.



..... working on the technology. EDEVT:3537



Volunteers dressed the various dummies. Some of the clothes were bought or donated but most needed the skills of seamstresses from the Museum committee who worked tirelessly using historical images to produce appropriate costumes.



Dressing the dummies was not the only challenge; 'The Builder' caused additional problems... *'when the time came for him to be placed in the loft he proved to be too tall for the space. A quick amputation, carried out by the Project Manager, converted him into a kneeling figure*



'The Builder' in the loft.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

The Eden Valley Museum offers a research service to the public who wish to trace local families. They have access to national records and the Museum also holds resources covering the records of many local organisations. This research facility is also used to enhance many of the exhibitions.

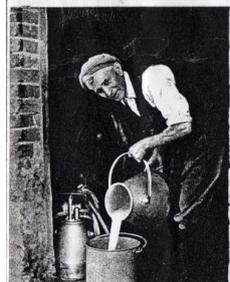
THE GEAL FAMILY REUNITED

In 2013 our researchers received an enquiry from Mr Timothy Deacon of Essex, about his family history. The researchers established that in 1901 his great-grandparents Alfred and Eliza Geal, had lived in Batchelor's Cottages, Troy Town, Edenbridge, and had 10 children, four of whom fought in WW1 and returned home safely. Mr Deacon was a grandson of the oldest son, also called Alfred, whose daughter Kathleen had married Derek Deacon, his father.

Responding to the Museum's request for information for our WW1 exhibition we were also contacted by Ivan Geal, a grandson of Alfred and Eliza Geal whose father had been Harry, brother to Alfred. He had no knowledge of his relative Timothy Deacon.

Our researchers also received an enquiry from Mr Gordon Geal. He was the grandson of Nolan, another brother of Alfred and Harry. He knew of Ivan but not Timothy.

Nolan Geal (b.1894)



Alfred Geal (b. 1887/8) in his WW1 uniform and his commemorative certificate



Harry Geal (b.1898) in his WW1 uniform and his commemorative certificate.

Our researchers eventually traced all ten children of Alfred and Eliza and with the help of the Geal family produced photos of them.



Bessie Geal (b c 1894) at her wedding to Major GH Humber in c.1920



Arthur Geal (b.1896)



Percy Oswald (Tom) Geal (b.1889)



Alberta Geal (b. 1890)



Ida Gertrude Geal (b.1891)

Baden Powell Geal was born in 1900 but died in 1902



Edward/Ted Alexander Geal (b.1902) He had tried to enlist in WW1 but was too young. He later served as a Gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery.

The Reunion. In 2014, as part of our WW1 commemoration, the Museum organised a reunion of the Geal family bringing together four generations, several of whom had never met one another before. Some travelled from as far as the New Forest and Essex to be here.



Tim Deacon (Centre – check shirt), John Geal on his left, Ivan Geal on his right, Gordon far right with Bob Geal (son of Ted Geal) seated.

**EDEN VALLEY MUSEUM
20TH BIRTHDAY EXHIBITION
AND MEMORIES OF CHURCH
HOUSE**



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LEARN FROM IT
LOOK TO THE FUTURE*

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