

Wealth of history

Updated on the **05** March
2009
13:50

Published 05/03/2009 13:44

[Email this](#)[Print this](#)

The museum that houses Dacorum's rich history needs the public's support to secure a funding boost.

Dacorum Heritage Trust is hoping a Lottery grant will help extend its collection and make its archives easier to access.

The Trust has planned two exhibitions to display its plans and has invited the public to lend support to the funding application.

A cash injection from the Heritage Lottery fund will help to refurbish

the Trust's Museum Store, based in Berkhamsted.

It is hoped the semi-derelict barns on Clarence Road could be demolished and replaced with a new two-storey building.

There is also scope for new staff offices plus an IT hub with an updated programme for using the archive.

The Museum Store is the home of more than 65,000 objects relating to Berkhamsted and the surrounding areas, including Bovingdon, Chipperfield, Flamstead, [Hemel Hempstead](#), Kings Langley, Markyate and Tring.

It homes a wealth of historical documents and writings, from the story of the Roman villa excavated in Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead, in the 1960s, to how life was in Dacorum during the two World Wars.

Currently, the nature of the building means the store is not fully accessible, but appointments can be made for viewings and there are regular tours and themed exhibitions.

The Trust, formed in 1993 and given Accredited Museum status in 2008, also loans objects to schools and groups for displays.

The latest exhibitions will be open to the public on Thursday, March 5, from 2pm to 6pm, and on Friday, March 6, between [10am](#) and 5pm.

Questionnaires will be available to visitors to help the Trust to assess public opinion on its proposals.

Curatorial assistant Nina Bevan said: "The questionnaire is an important factor within our Heritage Lottery Fund grant application.

"Completion of the questionnaire is crucial to proving that we have the support of the local community."

For more details contact The Museum Store on 01442 879525 or email [HERE](#).

Time to reveal background of inscribed watch

Clearing her mother's house in Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley, Elinor Bloomfield naturally expected to find things to ponder over.

But one discovery led to more thought than usual. She came across a watch inscribed "Presented to Mr T. Fellowes in recognition of his services to Liberalism - Kings Langley, January 1908."

Mrs Bloomfield, of Lawn Lane, [Hemel Hempstead](#), said: "I know that the house was sold to my father in 1950 by a Mr Charles Fellowes after the death of his father, Thomas Fellowes, who had lived in the house up to that time.

"If there are any surviving members of the family living locally, I would be happy to return this item to them."

Contact the [The Gazette](#) [HERE](#) or [Mrs Bloomfield](#) [HERE](#).