



NEWSLETTER

No. 93

WINTER 2018

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

'COMMEMORATING PEACETIME IN DACORUM' EXHIBITIONS

We are delighted to announce our own 'glad tidings of great joy'* as 6,920 people (including 1,362 children) attended our exhibitions, which 'Commemorated Peacetime in Dacorum'. With the support of funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Berkhamsted Lions we staged another successful exhibition. We had 12 days in an empty shop unit in the Marlowes Shopping Centre, Hemel Hempstead followed by a day and a half at Berkhamsted Civic Centre.



Within our exhibition was our large, unique, art installation of 1,089 origami doves. A poignant reminder of the impact the Great War had on our local community, with a dove for each name on war memorials across Dacorum.

The origami doves were folded by hundreds of people, including community groups (U3A and Girl Guides) and visitors to our pop-up museum stalls at the Gadebridge Park Armed Forces Day, the Chipperfield Fete, in libraries and many other events during the year. This is what

makes this installation truly special, the community collaboration and remembrance for the local fallen a century on.

Another element of the exhibition (which really brought the theme to life) were the wonderful artworks created at workshop events conducted in partnership with Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts. In the workshops we hosted, children were able to handle authentic WWI artefacts and discuss different aspects of wartime and remembrance. The participants were given a 12" x 12" canvas to decorate in any way they liked, provided it reflected the project theme and included our dove outline somewhere. Some used the dove to form the main picture while others were more subtle and many pieces had 3D elements. We achieved our aim to create 100 canvases for the 100 years since the end of the Great War. Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts staff also used this idea in their after school clubs. We were impressed at the range of creativity and how the beautiful artwork was so inspiring.

"This type of activity is so important. My daughter learnt so much, she came home filled with information." *Parent of Workshop Participant.*



Follow this link (<http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/dht-news/ww1-centenary-artwork/>) to view all the canvases.

Images: Top: Exhibition in Marlowes. **Lower:** Canvases (l-r) by: Sue Foster, Ellie, Anna Cornwall, Paula Daddow & Ella Bowen.

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LTD.

Registered Office: **The Museum Store, Clarence Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3YL.**

Tel. No. **01442 879525** (answer phone). Or email collectionsmanager@dacorumheritage.org.uk

Company Registered in England No. 2851313. Registered Charity No. 1026161. Accredited Museum No. 1594.



There were vinyl poppies on the floor of the shopping mall including a sign 'follow the poppies to our WWI centenary exhibition'. These proved popular and we saw children jumping the gaps between each of the poppies, which led many straight into our shop entrance.

As part of the WWI project we scanned all the pictorial 'rolls of honour' from the local Gazette. These were displayed alongside the dove display, together with short biographies, in order to provide a poignant reminder of the human lives that were lost. It proved to be one of the most interesting and moving parts of the

exhibition. Many visitors commented that they made the exhibition more 'real'.



"This was the best exhibition that DHT has ever put on" *Feed-back from many exhibition visitors.*

If you missed our exhibition, there is no need to worry. Over the next few weeks we will be uploading information and images from the exhibitions on to our website <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/dht-news/commemorating-peacetime-in-dacorum-2/>

We tried something different in the exhibitions, the text on the display panels could be accessed using QR codes; one of our volunteers recorded the information, follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/user/DacHeritage/videos> to listen on our YouTube channel.

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to our team of volunteers for the committed hard work to deliver this record breaking exhibition. We could not have done it without your hard work and support including researching, dove folding and setting up and stewarding at events and the exhibitions.

Another first for DHT – we made the BBC London news! During our exhibition in Marlowes Nina was interviewed by a reporter and the film article was screened in the week running up to Armistice Day. Note the spelling of 'Dacorum'.





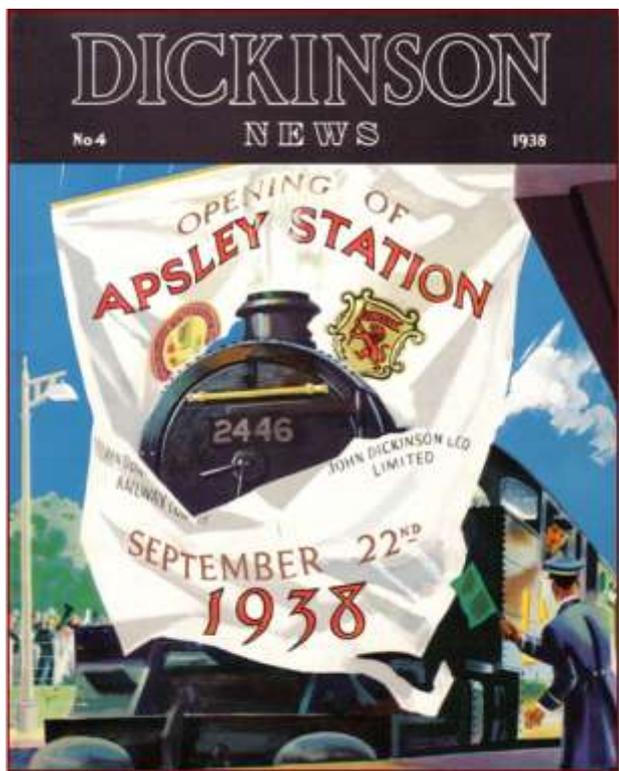
*“The air is electric with the glad tidings of a great joy” quote from the Gazette of 9th November 1918.

Nina Glencross, Collections Manager

Image: – **Facing Page - Top:** Dove installation at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. **Middle:** A selection of images from the Berkhamsted exhibition. **Lower:** BBC London news screening the interview with Nina. **Above:** (l-r) Comment on our post-it note wall; Christopher Cox from Kings Langley; Christopher Cox’s VC; images of the fallen including ones from Gazette; our feed-back wall.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF APSLEY RAILWAY STATION

The 22nd September 1938 was a very significant date for Apsley and John Dickinson’s mills. This year, 2018, saw the 80th anniversary of the opening of the station.



In 1809 John Dickinson purchased, from George Stafford, the premises at the Apsley Mill, adjacent to the River Gade, and less than two years later he added Nash Mill. However, building the canal had greatly reduced the water flow to the mill wheels; prior to the sale Stafford and others had approached The Grand Junction Canal Company concerning the issue. This resulted in the provision of a steam-powered pump in order to restore the flow but this proved an ineffective measure. In 1817 Dickinson obtained an injunction against the canal owners, resulting in the re-routing of the canal in order to ensure improved water flow to the mills.

Plans for the London to Birmingham railway included several possible routes. The adopted route ran through the Gade Valley and effectively by-passed all four of Dickinson’s mills. Intermediate stations soon followed, including Kings Langley, which was built on Dickinson’s land, close to the Home Park Mill. Following John Dickinson’s death, his Grandson, Lewis Evans, ran the company, but it became obvious that the costs of delivering coal by boat became prohibitive. Therefore, as a matter of urgency a rail connection was needed to maintain supplies and deliveries to both Croxley Mill and Apsley.

The Company had worked endlessly for many years for the provision of a station at Apsley. However, as things turned out they had to settle for the building across the road, designed specifically for the use of passenger traffic. The work had

involved the addition of platforms to both the local and express lines. It is thought this would be the only mainline railway station opened for a paper-mill. Although no paper had actually been made there for many years, as it was then a ‘paper conversion’ establishment, with some 7,000 employees.

The new station would be a joint venture between LMS and Dickinson’s, and had been provided mainly for the workforce of the Apsley Mill. Indeed the centenary of ‘the first railway train to publicly convey passengers throughout from London to Birmingham’ was celebrated on the 17th September 1938. The official opening of the new Apsley Station took place just five days later, on the 22nd September 1938. Some 2,000 spectators and employees saw a large paper ‘screen’, which had been specially made at the Croxley Mill, stretched across the line. It bore the respective crests of LMS and John Dickinson’s, together with the message ‘Opening of Apsley Station September 22nd 1938’. The station itself was then opened for public use on Monday 26th September.

Roy Wood, Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society

With acknowledgement to articles by Michael Stanyon (The Quarterly No. 79) and Peter Ward (Chambersbury News). Article edited, to read the full article follow this link <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/article/apsley-railway-stations-80th-birthday/>

Image: Cover of Dickinson’s company news dated 1938, courtesy of Roy Wood.

CURATOR'S CORNER

'DHT in 25 Objects' Advent Calendar. To celebrate our company's 25th anniversary this year, we are posting 25 short films featuring objects from the collections up to Christmas. The objects featured were chosen by our regular volunteers and staff; you can view the films on our Facebook page. We hope you enjoy them.

DHT End of Year Film 2018. Look out for our film, which will be posted on Facebook on New Year's Eve. A fun review of what we've been up to during 2018, the film will also be on our website.

'New Towns, Our Town – Stories on Screen'. The Independent Cinema Office (ICO) obtained a £66,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the 'New Towns, Our Town – Stories on Screen' project, which will focus on the UK's first four new towns: Stevenage, Crawley, Hemel Hempstead and Harlow.

The project aims to increase pride in the story of the new town movement, which began as part of the post war restructuring of Britain in 1945. The development corporations overseeing each new town documented their progress, and recorded much of this on film. These films have been kept in archives with limited public access for decades, but this new project will bring them together and allow people to engage with them once more.

ICO director, Catharine Des Forges, said: "We are really committed to the whole picture of British life through archive film, and there's a genuine appetite across the UK. We've seen this with the success of our 'Britain on Film' touring programme, which has reached an audience of over 15,000 people and played in hundreds of cinemas, film societies and community groups. We are looking forward to demonstrating the important contribution the new towns and their residents have made to the social history of the UK by bringing these fascinating films back to life".



(Image: The iconic New Town image of Queens Square, Adeyfield by John Hadland, photographer. From Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society collection, cared for by DHT.)

Legacy Giving. Help us safeguard our collections for future generations by remembering Dacorum Heritage Trust in your will. For more information visit our website <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/support-us/legacies/> Please remember to include a bequest to The Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd. when you make or revise your will.

☞ WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR ☞

The Museum Store is open by appointment only. For enquiries email Nina our Collections Manager.

Join our Newsletter emailing list – please contact the editor, your details will remain confidential and not given/sold to any third party.



EDITOR: Pam Gasking
office@dacorumheritage.org.uk
Like us on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter @DacorumHeritage
Authors are responsible for content accuracy.
Deadline: for next issue is 15th February 2019.



Funded by
**DACORUM
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**